

Owen's tough defence stand wins support

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The SDP conference yesterday endorsed the tough stand on defence by Dr David Owen, the party leader. It supported him and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, in their bid to settle the parties' differences on the replacement of Polaris by pursuing their quest for a minimum European deterrent.

Alliance leaders will now intensify their drive for agreement on a minimum European deterrent which Dr Owen claims could be a "turning point of British defence policy", and which will at the least prove a handy diversion in the nuclear policy clash which has seen Alliance support drop sharply in recent opinion polls.

After yet another coded attack on his leadership style had been beaten off by a margin of 4-1, a delighted Dr Owen declared: "I've got what I wanted - the freedom to go for the Labour Party's jugular on the crucial question of defence at the next election."

Party chiefs breathed a sigh of relief after the SDP conference, meeting at Harrogate, had successfully wriggled through its biggest problem of the week - using the defence debate to send conciliatory messages to the Liberals in advance of their conference next week without undermining their own leader. They managed it with a classic

fudge which left all sides claiming satisfaction. The conference pleased Liberal observers by the conciliatory tone of platform speakers and by the SDP's official welcome for the report of the Joint Alliance Commission on defence, previously a bone of contention between Dr Owen and the Liberals.

Dr Owen's position was preserved by a motion confirming that the SDP defence policy agreed in Torquay last year remains intact. However, the wording of the motion supporting existing SDP policy was softened. Mr John Cartwright, spokesman on defence, agreed that the 1985 policy was not engraved on tablets of stone but would be interpreted with flexibility.

His platform colleague Mr Charles Kennedy affirmed that the SDP was not insisting that an Alliance government should replace Polaris "come what may", but only that it would do so in certain circumstances on its judgement of future probabilities.

The tactical needs of the moment were met. Had the SDP insisted on a rigid interpretation of its past policy Liberal activists at the party's assembly in Eastbourne next week might well have de-

manded the Alliance split by insisting on going back to their past policies, including the total rejection of Polaris and a refusal to accept the deployment of cruise missiles.

Liberal observers were heartened too by the conference vote against the watering down of opposition to President Reagan's Star Wars initiative.

The mood of reconciliation was set by Dr Owen himself at a fringe meeting the night before when he said: "We should not attempt to bounce our Liberal partners into anything they haven't been able to think through."

But if the Alliance leaders are now clear what is agreed the general public are likely to be much less so. The basic difference between the Liberals and the SDP on defence remains.

While the Liberals are content to postpone the question of replacing Polaris, believing that replacement of Britain's ageing deterrent will not be necessary unless things go badly wrong in the superpowers arms talks, the SDP leadership's view is that Polaris will have to be replaced unless something remarkable happens.

Although the platform won every vote it wanted yesterday Dr Owen was warned that he does not speak for all his members. Other delegates urged him not to make up

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The Prince of Wales talking to Gurkha soldiers yesterday. (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Prince helps to heal Gurkha rift

By David Sapsted
Handshakes from the Prince of Wales yesterday marked the start of the healing process in Britain's relations with its Gurkha soldiers.

The Prince, Colonel-in-Chief of the 2nd King Edward VII's Gurkha Rifles - the Sirmoor Rifles - held private conversations with the men after taking

the salute in a ceremony at Church Crookham, Hampshire, to mark the battalion's centenary.

Britain's long association with the Nepalese troops has come under strain this summer after the dismissal of more than 100 Gurkhas after an assault on their commanding officer, and the jailing of five others from the Church

Crookham base on drugs offences.

Prince Charles, who spent four hours at the event, spent much of the time chatting to the Gurkhas, over lunch and on parade.

One of the organizers said: "We decided not to have speeches but to keep the celebrations fairly informal."

Royal birthday, page 2

Seventeen killed in Greek earthquake

From Mario Mediano Athens
Seventeen people, including a baby aged one month, were killed and 70 per cent of the buildings were damaged when an earthquake, measured at 6.2 on the Richter scale, hit Kalamata in southern Greece on Saturday night.

Scores of people were injured and dogs were flown in from France to search for survivors in the ruins of a five-storey residential building near the seafloor.

Authorities urged people not to go near their homes for fear of more tremors. They fear a stronger quake could cause greater destruction.

Rescue efforts in Kalamata centred on a high rise block of 17 apartments which was flattened by the earthquake, trapping an estimated 20-30 residents. Workers pulled 14 people out alive, including Mrs Angelica Papadopoulos, wife of a Greek Air Force officer who is believed to have died with their two children.

Two brothers, aged 28 and 34, were killed while trying to park their car outside when the building crashed. Three teenagers watching television in a second floor flat are still missing.

Officials say 112 buildings completely or partly collapsed and cracks scarred 1,150 old houses and buildings. One cannot move in the streets without stepping over mounds of rubble and broken glass. Streets are littered with the contents of shop windows.

Miss Claire Tambridge from Stratford-on-Avon and Mr Simon Willey, from Clapham, who were heading for Mystra, said they saw people sleeping alongside the road when their train pulled into Kalamata at 7.30 am on Sunday.

Strike postponed: The executive committee of the Union of Greek Public Employees announced that they had postponed a strike against wage freezes and austerity measures which was due to start today because of the emergency situation created after the earthquake (Reuter reports).

Photograph, page 6

Secret deal over Daniloff fails to relieve tensions

From Christopher Walker, Moscow
Tension between the superpowers over mutual charges of espionage remained high yesterday despite the secret deal between Moscow and Washington which secured the release into ambassadorial custody of Mr Nicholas Daniloff, the US journalist, in exchange for a similar concession to a Soviet physicist in the US, Mr Gennady Zakharov, also held on spying charges.

Giving his first account of his 13-day ordeal in Moscow's grim Lefortovo military jail, Mr Daniloff yesterday accused the KGB of subjecting him to "mental torture" and of framing him with planted material. He also accused the Kremlin of running a campaign designed to undermine further his credibility.

In protest against Mr Daniloff's treatment, a number of key American speakers have pulled out of a debate between US and Soviet policy makers due to open today in the Baltic resort of Jurmala.

At the same time, Soviet television announced plans to broadcast an interview with Mr Edward Lee Howard, the Central Intelligence Agency defector who arrived here secretly last month.

At one of the most emotive press conferences seen in Moscow for many years, Mr Daniloff, looking haggard and drained despite snazzy new clothing, told more than 100 Western reporters that they were all potential targets for a similar KGB "set-up" that had led to him being "sand-bagged" by eight undercover men on August 30.

"I am afraid that what happened to me is a problem which involves all of you," Mr Daniloff told the correspondents, many of whom queued after to shake him warmly by the hand.

"I am afraid that my arrest is an intimidating act for you. I only hope that you will respond to this in a firm way. I am sure that you will."

During his detention, Mr Daniloff was kept in an 8 ft by 10 ft cell with a Soviet stool pigeon. Both shared an open toilet in the cell and were woken every day at 6 am. Most of Mr Daniloff's daily interrogation was carried out in Russian, although an interpreter was available.

"Even though I was not cold, I was not hungry, I was not abused in the physical sense, the mere fact of being transferred into a prison cell, being isolated from my family and friends, not being allowed under the Soviet system to have legal counsel, being interrogated for four hours a day for two weeks is a very, very hard burden," he said.

"Frankly, I have to tell you, it was mental torture."

Mr Daniloff, who had to delay his keenly-awaited press conference for 24 hours because of his weak condition, said that after the interrogation sessions - conducted by a civilized and sophisticated KGB colonel - it had been impossible to forget about his problems on returning to his cell. Colleagues noted he appeared to have been greatly shaken by his ordeal.

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Chirac clamps down on terror

From Diana Geddes Paris
All foreigners entering France, including Americans but not EEC and Swiss nationals, will need a visa from tomorrow as part of tough new anti-terrorist measures announced yesterday by the French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac.

The announcement, which includes the drafting of 2,000 soldiers to patrol French borders, came less than an hour after yet another bomb had gone off in the capital, this time in a car park under a pub on the Champs Elysees, seriously injuring three people.

There was an almost simultaneous blacking-out of television screens throughout Paris, after a short circuit caused by the explosion produced a breakdown in the Eiffel Tower transmitters.

Mr Chirac, sounding calm and determined, said in his announcement on national radio that the Government had decided on the immediate introduction of four measures to help stamp out "the leprosy which is terrorism".

The 2,000 drafted soldiers will also assist police and customs officials in airports and ports.

Co-operation between France's security and intelligence services, well known for jealousies and rivalries, is to be streamlined and strengthened, and international co-operation on terrorism is to be strengthened, including co-operation with the Soviet Union.

Owners of shops, restaurants, cinemas and other privately-owned public places are to be asked to introduce routine security checks, and all public services will be required to do the same.

M Chirac said these measures had been taken in addition to the anti-terrorist legislation already introduced by the Government which provide, among other things, for specialist centralized courts to try terrorists; spot identity cheques by police; extended detention without charge for suspected terrorists; reduced prison sentences for convicted terrorists willing to turn "supergrass"; tighter restrictions on immigrants coming into the country, and greater facility in the expulsion of unwanted foreigners.

Twelve people of Middle East origin, arrested in a police raid on Friday following the bomb attack at the Paris City Hall the previous Monday, were still being detained last night, awaiting expulsion without any charges having been brought.

M Chirac insisted there was absolutely no question of freeing the three convicted Arab prisoners whose liberation has been demanded by the Beirut-based group which has carried out most of the terrorist attacks in France this year.

Baker to set up science schools

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter
A plan to set up a network of some 20 government-funded secondary schools specializing in technical subjects will be unveiled by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at next month's Conservative Party conference.

The move, the first officially sanctioned break with the comprehensive system, will engage the Labour Party and a large body of opinion in the teachers' unions. But it will hearten many right-wing Tory MPs who want radical steps aimed at extending parental choice.

The scheme is backed by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Norman Tebbit, party chairman, who believe that more money is not a sufficient answer.

Mr Baker will seek to counter the charge that he is paving the way for a return to the selective system, by stressing that specialist schools are needed to meet the growing demands of industry for scientists and technologists.

His proposals are closely modelled on a discussion paper drawn up in the Department of Education and Science under his predecessor Sir Keith Joseph.

This envisaged 16 to 20 "technology schools" in big cities, each catering for 1,000 selected pupils, who would not pay fees.

They would be admitted at the age of 11 and from 14 to 18 would concentrate on subjects such as the sciences, computing, craft, design and technology and business studies.

The new institutions would be funded directly from Whitehall and not through the 104 local education authorities which control the 1944 Education Act, are currently responsible for the £8 billion-a-year schools system.

The capital costs of setting up the network are estimated at £5 million.

It is not yet clear whether Mr Baker will announce an immediate go-ahead for the new schools or whether he will make their introduction a manifesto commitment.

The shift towards a bigger place for technology in schools continues a process begun under Sir Keith's tenure of office, when the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative was launched in 1983.

Its aim is to make the curriculum more relevant to industry and commerce for the 14 to 18 age group. Next year, backed by a budget of £90 million, the scheme is being extended to all schools.

At the same time, the Government is giving universities and polytechnics an extra £43 million by the end of the decade to pay for the training of 5,000 more engineers and technologists.

Merger with the Liberals resisted

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent
Dr David Owen yesterday resisted growing pressure from the grass roots and upper echelons of the SDP for an official merger with the Liberal Party.

Although other members of the "gang of four", Mr Roy Jenkins, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Bill Rodgers, believe increasingly that such a move should take place and would bolster the Alliance's electoral appeal, the SDP leader insisted the time was not right and any joining of forces should evolve naturally.

"At the moment we decide things in the Alliance rather, if you like, like the Nato alliance, through negotiation, through give and take. And I think that's the best way to grow together and to evolve together. Of course, ultimately, the longer this process goes on, the more it's likely to lead eventually to a decision to form an alliance party."

"At that stage, I think it would be a genuine alliance party. It wouldn't be the Liberal Party nor the SDP."

Tomorrow

Hound in glove

Poodle mascots and hound's-tooth checks signal the dog days of autumn and a renaissance for tweeds that suit

Portfolio

● The £16,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold weekly competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous weekend, was shared on Saturday by two readers - Mrs Eileen Walsh, of High Wycombe, Bucks, and Mr Ralph Millward, of New Moston, Manchester.

● The daily prize of £4,000 was also shared by two readers - Miss S.D. Wood, of Chipping Campden, Glos, and Mr Keith Hawkins, of Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. Details, page 3.

● There is another £4,000 to be won today.

● Portfolio list, page 20; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

Lord King is favourite to take over at BBC

The way appears clear for Lord King of Wartaby to become the BBC's new chairman of governors (Nicholas Wood writes).

It was disclosed yesterday that the British Airways chairman is on the shortlist that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, will submit to the Prime Minister within the next few days.

Mrs Thatcher is known to favour the appointment of the co-ordinating industrialist who in five years has transformed the commercial prospects of the state airline, bringing it to the brink of privatization.

But Mr Hurd is understood to want a less abrasive figure to take over from Mr Stuart Young, who died late last month. He is said to be favouring a rearguard action to get his way.

Other names said to be going forward include Lord Barnett, vice-chairman of the governors, and Sir Ian Trethowan, former director-general.

The new chairman will face a host of problems, not least the growing belief in the Tory party that the BBC is biased against the Government.

Minister surprised at lost Navy files

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday: "An inquiry has been launched to look at the authenticity of the documents and, if they are authentic, how they came to be lost. At this stage, we are not prepared to say what the file contained."

The papers came from the Directorate of Naval Staff Duties and were due to go to a meeting of senior naval officers tomorrow, the newspaper reported. They showed:

- Britain's Polaris submarine force would fall in numbers by 1996 before the Trident replacements were in service;
- five out of the 13 nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines patrolling the world would be cut;
- destroyers and frigates patrolling British coastal waters would drop from 50 to 47

because the new Type 23 frigate could not be built fast enough;

- auxiliary ships would be reduced;
- and the Falklands patrol force could not be maintained.

Other problems included a growing manpower shortage, and poor research and development adversely affecting work on the new generation of Harrier jet, torpedoes, anti-submarine warfare and submarine-launched cruise missiles.

Mr Younger said of the papers: "They appear to be a collection of documents relevant to next year's cost review exercises. They have been nowhere near ministers and will not be considered until next spring."

The proposed cuts were not

Gatt meeting threatened with walkouts

From Bailey Morris Punta del Este, Uruguay
Ministers of 92 nations met here yesterday for new global trade talks amid threats of a walkout over South Africa and growing tensions between the US and Europe.

The week-long General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade meeting was quickly dominated by the EEC-US dispute over agriculture. US officials have said they will walk out if strong language to reduce subsidies in agriculture is not on the agenda. Britain and West Germany generally support the US but France and other EEC members want to weaken the agriculture language. Details, page 17

Norman takes the title

Greg Norman, of Australia, won the European Open golf championship at Sunningdale yesterday when he beat Keo Brown, of Scotland, at the first extra hole in a sudden-death play-off.

● Ian Botham, Viv Richards and Joel Garner helped Somerset to a three-wicket victory over Derbyshire in the John Player Special league

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Two men shot

The Provisional IRA has claimed responsibility for the shooting yesterday of a Loyalist with paramilitary connections and a soldier shot dead a man running away Page 2

Shop talk

Big is no longer beautiful in the retail business. A Special Report looks at the transition in the high street Pages 21-23

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Addicts should get a full live fix
Children see real this
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Danger signs on acid rain under study by scientists

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Early warning of the danger to forests and woodlands from acid rain, before the vegetation shows any sign of damage, should come from research by an international team led by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, in Edinburgh and Lancaster universities.

Under a project supported by the European Commission, scientists from Britain, Holland and West Germany are seeking a simple method of early diagnosis so that corrective measures can be introduced before the death of trees and plants is inevitable.

Six sites have been identified, two in each country, which allow measurement of the impact of the chemical cocktails which come under the umbrella name of "acid rain".

The three main components to be monitored are the levels of sulphur dioxide, ozone and the degree of acidity in the rain and water.

The sites range from one in West Scotland, with low sulphur dioxide, low ozone and low acidity to one in West Germany which is high in all three.

The other areas have different combinations of those pollutants, but each zone includes woodland with Scots Pine, Norwegian Spruce and beech tree.

Studies ranging from surveys from spacecraft to laboratory analysis of the soil, water and vegetation will be repeated through changing weather conditions over the next few months.

The aim is to devise a

simple monitoring test that gives an early alert of damage.

Other studies by the Institute of the hillsides draining into Scottish lochs, which are suffering the effect of pollution, show that mist and low cloud are up to 10 times as acidic as the rain falling in the same area.

Other new findings by the Institute of Hydrology show that snow concentrates acidic products three times more efficiently than rain.

The discovery came in measuring melting snow feeding streams that run into Scottish lochs. The amount of acidity was at the level previously reported in Scandinavia.

Mrs Birgitta Dahl, the Swedish Energy and Environment Minister, yesterday expressed her bitter disappointment with the extent of the measures announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher in Oslo last week to curb sulphur emissions from Britain (Christopher Mosey writes from Stockholm).

Sulphur, mainly from Britain, is alleged to cause acid rain responsible for killing fish and plant life in Scandinavian lakes and rivers.

Mrs Dahl said that Sweden would demand negotiations with the British government on the issue.

She condemned the measures announced by Mrs Thatcher, the spending of £500m to cut sulphur emissions from power stations, as insufficient. "It's deplorable," she said. "The British Government has done nothing whatsoever about heavy industry."

Two men die in Belfast shootings

By Richard Ford

Two men died in Northern Ireland yesterday when the Provisional IRA killed a "loyalist", alleging that he was involved in five sectarian murders, and the Army shot a suspected terrorist fleeing from an ambush on the security forces.

A soldier opened fire on the suspected Provisional IRA terrorist as the man ran towards a health centre in west Belfast, having been challenged twice to stop.

Earlier, the Provisionals killed Mr John Bingham, whom they alleged was an operations officer in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force.

The unnamed man was shot after masked and armed men took over a house in Andersonstown, west Belfast, on Saturday night and held a family hostage before opening fire on a joint RUC-Army foot patrol yesterday. Two men were seen, one escaped and the other was challenged twice before the Army opened fire.

Mr Jim Cunningham, who witnessed the shooting, said he saw a heavy man running from behind a shop and crossing the road. "He had both hands in the air. The soldier ran across the road and within 20 yards shot him. I don't know why he could not have run up and caught him."

Later a mask and shotgun were found and an Army bomb disposal team made safe a "sophisticated booby trap" bomb containing 7 lb of commercial explosives surrounded by strapping. The bomb had been left near a garage adjacent to occupied houses.

Earlier, the Provisional IRA burst into the home of Mr Bingham, aged 33, and shot him dead.

Mr Bingham was released from jail in 1984, had been sentenced to 20 years on the word of an informer for conspiring to import arms to the UVF, possession of an M60 machine gun and RFG7 rocket launcher. It was quashed on appeal and he returned to his wife and family in the hardline Ballysillan estate, in north Belfast.

Yesterday the Provisional IRA accused him in a statement of being the UVF operations officer who had organized the murder of five Roman Catholics.

A getaway car used in the killing was found abandoned in the nationalist Ardoyne area and last night two men were being questioned by the police.

Mr Bingham had been election agent for an independent loyalist councillor and last year Lord Longford stayed at his home during the campaign against the use of supergrass evidence.

Lord Longford said yesterday: "I had a high regard for him. I think of him and his wife as most kindly people."



Prince Harry, who celebrates his second birthday today, struggles manfully to climb the steps up to an Andover aircraft of the Queen's Flight yesterday at Dyce Airport, Aberdeen, as the Prince and Princess of Wales ended their annual Scottish holiday to return home. Prince William, aged four, left separately yesterday on a scheduled flight with his nanny.

Soon after arriving at Heathrow, the Prince of Wales took the salute at the Delhi Day parade of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire.

The Prince is Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, the second battalion of which is celebrating its centenary.

Tory 'wets' aim to win whips contest

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Tory "wets", smarting from their reversals in last week's ministerial reshuffle, are planning to exact revenge on the resurgent right of the party by snatching up the two vacancies in the Whips Office.

They have chosen Mr Charles Wardle, MP for Bexhill and Battle, and Mr Nicholas Soames, MP for Crawley, as their candidates in a contest that should be decided this week.

The right, only now emerging from the euphoria that greeted the advancement of such standard bearers as Mrs Angela Rumbold and Mrs Edwina Currie, are mustering a counterattack.

They are beginning to press the claims of Mr Eric Forth, MP for Mid Worcestershire, Mr Michael Forsyth, MP for Stirling and Mrs Marion Roe, MP for Broxbourne.

The vacancies in the 14-strong Whips Office were created by the promotion of Mr Archibald Hamilton, a right-winger, to a junior post at defence and the move by Mr Donald Thompson, on the centre-left, to an equivalent post at agriculture.

This leaves unchanged the delicate political make-up of government business managers which, according to right-wingers, already has a slightly soggy character.

They fear that if the Wardle-Soames ticket triumphs, the cards will be stacked against them, and their recent victory in the ministerial stakes will prove short-lived.

The whips office is self-perpetuating in that all its members vote on who should be admitted to their ranks and can blackball candidates judged unsuitable. Mr John Wakeham, Chief Whip, will play a key role in choosing the new members.

The composition of the whips office is of abiding concern to ambitious backbenchers because of its central role in advising the Prime Minister of likely candidates for advancement, particularly onto the first rungs of the ministerial ladder.

Careers can be made and broken on the strength of a few well-chosen words about the political and other proclivities of MPs.

The thrust of last week's exercise was, in part, the result of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's attempt to placate the right who have become increasingly restive at what they see as her failure to reward their loyalty.

Mr Wakeham, seen by some as the villain of previous Government reconstructions, worked alongside her during the detailed preparation work.

Commercial vehicles Spares fear sparks thefts

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Dep Chief Superintendent John Newton, from Essex regional crime squad, said that the police were aware of the large and growing number of lorries being stolen and sent abroad.

Mr Newton said the Bedford TL was particularly popular because its tilting cab gives thieves easy access to the gear box and the engine.

In a recent incident in Hertford, five Bedford T1s were stripped of their engines and gear boxes within two hours.

Littlewoods, a haulage firm that has lost four vehicles since February, said: "This kind of theft is clearly on the increase and it is the vehicles themselves, not the contents, that the thieves are after."

Optimism despite GM plan

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The decision by General Motors to cease commercial lorry manufacture in Britain will probably be the last of the big closures in the European industry in the short term.

Observers of the commercial vehicle scene, which still presents a picture of depression and over-capacity, believe that more mergers could be on the cards and jobs will continue to be lost, but that most companies will now hold on even more strongly to their manufacturing bases in the hope of demand rising.

Particularly vulnerable, however, are the smaller, independent lorry makers, including Leyland Vehicles and ENASA, of Spain, which will continue to be "eyed" by potential purchasers.

The Government is committed to the privatization of Leyland, although it is by no means certain that the group's new owner would come from the motor industry.

Another candidate for change, at least in part, is Renault's commercial vehicle operation, RVI, which is keen to sell its Spanish facilities.

Unlike General Motors' Bedford, which has an ageing product range, most of the big European lorry makers have introduced new ranges and are poised to do battle for an EEC market that looks like expanding slowly in the next few years.

DRI Europe, the forecasting group, predicts that total demand in seven key EEC markets should rise from 1,117,000 last year to 1,214,000 in 1990.

Output, however, is expected to remain at last year's level of 1,343,000 for the next two years and then climb to 1,442,000 by the end of the decade.

Much of the growing but cautious optimism arises from the collapse in oil prices which is expected to feed through into greater demand for lorries. That is countered by the collapse of demand in some of the traditional African markets.

DRI says that a third of European output that is sold outside Western Europe is at risk.

In Britain, all the leading manufacturers will be grappling for a slice of the 10 per cent of the market now to be made available after the Bedford closure. Leyland Vehicles certainly should benefit, but the big Europeans, including the market leader, Daimler Benz, will be moving in smartly.

Leyland also has to combat the newly created Iveco Ford Truck, formed this summer by an amalgamation of Ford of Britain's heavy truck business with that of the Fiat-owned Iveco. IFT has a target of 25 per cent of the domestic market and claims now to have the strongest dealer network in the land.

Three years ago, it was probably true that the industry suffered from 40 per cent over-capacity, according to Mr John Lawson of DRI, but today the figure is lower.

Companies previously in trouble, such as MAN, of West Germany, and Iveco, the Fiat subsidiary, are now looking healthier.

At the juggernaut end of the industry, Volvo and Scania, of Sweden, have been particularly successful. "They are the only two manufacturers who have consistently made anything like a commercial return on their truck business throughout the recession," Mr Lawson says.

Volvo, through its joint venture in the United States with General Motors, clearly has aspirations to become a global "giant".

World Chess Championship Kasparov retains lead with a draw

From Raymond Keene, Leningrad

Time is running out for Anatoly Karpov, the former world chess champion, in his bid to regain the title which he lost last year.

In the fifteenth game of the series on Friday, he began in aggressive mood. He chose to combat Kasparov's habitual Grünfeld defence with a line not used at world championship level since the Petrosian-Botvinnik match in 1963.

Karpov's 12th move, e5, was a bold thrust in the centre of the board, which appeared to surprise Kasparov and force him to spend much time in thought.

However, Kasparov aides disclosed that this attack came as no surprise to the world champion. They said that the plan of defence would involve a knight retreat to the back rank, which Kasparov actually played.

Karpov, in his turn, seemed utterly nonplussed by the manoeuvre and consumed no less than 1 hour and 20 minutes over his 16th and 17th moves. It became clear at that point that Kasparov would have no difficulty in regaining the pawn he had temporarily sacrificed.

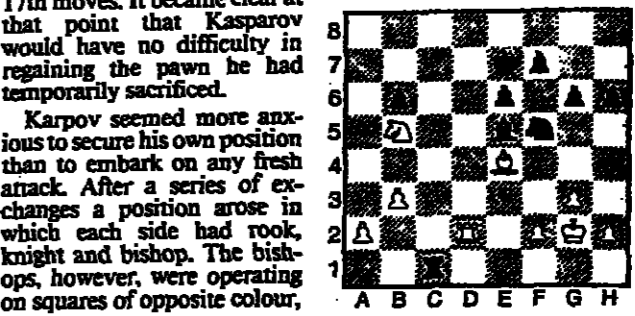
Karpov seemed more anxious to secure his own position than to embark on any fresh attack. After a series of exchanges a position arose in which each side had rook, knight and bishop. The bishops, however, were operating on squares of opposite colour,

which made a draw virtually inevitable.

After black's 29th move, Kasparov was walking confidently on the stage, while Karpov seemed lost in thought. Suddenly the former champion offered a draw, which Kasparov immediately accepted.

The score is 8.5 for Kasparov to 6.5 for Karpov, and Kasparov needs only 12 points to keep his title.

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	Nf6	16 Nb5	Nb7
2 c4	g6	17 Rd2	b6
3 Nc3	g5	18 cxb6	axb6
4 Nb3	Bg7	19 Bg5	Nb5
5 Qb3	dxc4	20 b5	Nx5
6 Qxc4	0-0	21 Bb3	Bxc3
7 e4	Bg4	22 Bx3	Nx5
8 Bg3	Nb7	23 Bx5	Bx5
9 Rd1	Nc5	24 0-0	Rd9
10 Be2	Nb6	25 Rd1	Rxd2
11 Qc5	Qe6	26 Rxd2	Rc8
12 e5	Qc5	27 g3	Rc1 ch
13 dxc5	Nc8	28 Kg2	Kf8
14 Nb5	Rd8	29 Bg4	Nd7
15 Nc7	e6		Draw agreed



Fresh line on heart disease Heart test on drugs raid chief

By John Young

The "obsession" with blaming saturated fats, and dairy products in particular, for causing heart attacks, and other coronary ailments is misguided, the annual conference of the British Veterinary Association was told in Brighton at the weekend.

Dr Duncan Fickard, a lecturer in animal physiology and nutrition at Leeds University, said that no one should believe that the chances of suffering from heart disease would be reduced by not eating butter and by drinking skimmed milk.

The Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy report in July 1984 singled out dairy products because it was easier to calculate what would happen if dairy fat was avoided than if people had been told to reduce their consumption of chocolates, biscuits, chips and crisps, he said.

"Had more emphasis been placed on advising people to increase their consumption of whole cereals, fruit and vegetables, rather than telling them what not to eat, the chances of improving their diet would be much greater."

High blood cholesterol, smoking, obesity and high blood pressure were important risk factors, but together could account for only about half the heart disease incidence.

The police officer who headed the operation which sparked off rioting in the St Paul's area of Bristol was taken to hospital yesterday with a suspected heart attack.

Mr Malcolm Popperwell, aged 52, assistant chief constable of Avon and Somerset police, had complained of chest pains after three days co-ordinating the police in Operation Delivery.

He also bore the brunt of criticism levelled at the force at public meetings over its tactics during raids in the red-light area.

Mr Popperwell, a policeman for 32 years, was at home when he first fell ill. Staff at the Southmead Hospital in Bristol, where his condition last night was described as "comfortable", were carrying out tests, including those for a suspected heart attack, to discover the problem.

NUJ clears Sun man

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

One of five News International journalists accused of disobeying an instruction by the National Union of Journalists not to cross picket lines at the company's plant in Wapping, east London, has had the charge against him withdrawn. He is Malcolm Withers, former father of the chapel (office branch chairman) at The Sun.

The other four were found guilty of conduct detrimental to the interests of the union and were censured. They are Clifford Longley, FOC at The Times; Peter Wilby, former FOC at The Sunday Times; David Wroxton, FOC and industrial correspondent of The News of the World; and Charles Rae, industrial editor of The Sun.

Farm prices boom despite grain surplus

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

While grain stores remain full to overflowing with unsold wheat and barley from last year, farmers are enjoying unexpectedly high prices for this year's harvest (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Bread-making wheat was trading last week at about £118 a tonne, fed wheat at about £105 and top quality malting barley at up to £130, their highest seasonal level for at least two years.

The reason for the paradox is that, despite the boom, spot market prices are still below intervention levels and the intervention board is not prepared to sell grain from storage for less than that paid.

Because of near-drought conditions and consequent poor yields in southern Europe, British growers at present are able to take advantage of a surge in export demand.

Long-term uncertainty, however, is continuing to depress the agricultural land market. Average prices have dropped by a quarter in the past year to their lowest level for eight years.

Bomb blast funeral march

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Supporters of the late Shah of Iran staged a protest funeral march yesterday for Mr Bijan Fazeli, an Iranian who died in a terrorist bomb blast last month at a bookshop in Kensington, central London.

A thousand mourners carrying banners and Iranian flags gathered outside the shop, whose owner, Mr Reza Fazeli, the dead man's father, blamed the bomb on the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Security van guard shot

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A Securix guard was recovering in hospital yesterday after he was shot in a bungled raid on his vehicle.

He was one of two guards injured in the chest by bullets from a rifle, shotgun, and pistols wielded by five raiders at the A2 interchange at Dartford, Kent, on Saturday night. The other guard has left hospital.

Boy killed

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

John Paton, aged eight, of Waverley, Liverpool, was killed when a car struck a party of children walking along a quiet lane in Renfrewshire on Saturday night. Three other children and two supervisors were injured.

Nissan's gift

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Prince of Wales is to receive the first car off the full production line of Nissan's new factory at Sunderland. The Bluebird SLX will be used by the Prince's Community Venture Scheme.

Talks on police watchdog

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Senior police officers are to meet Sir Cecil Clothier about the new Police Complaints Authority of which he is chairman. They will discuss difficulties over the interpretation of police regulations and problems over the way investigations are run and what they represent.

Some chief officers are said not to appreciate that the authority's role is often to show whether there is a case to answer, rather than to provide a complete investigation leading to immediate action.

The meeting is to be arranged by Home Office officials after a discussion at the meeting of the Association of Chief Police Officers, representing chief constables and other senior ranks, last week.

Some concern was expressed that the authority had adopted a "high profile" - although it was accepted that, as a new institution, the authority needed to establish itself in the public's mind.

'No pay rise' comment by minister attacked

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The claim by the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Kenneth Clarke, that no one will need a pay increase this winter to maintain living standards, was condemned as outrageous by Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, yesterday.

"Kenneth Clarke should address his remarks to the CBI and the moguls who hold the fortunes of millions of people in their hands", he said.

He added that Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of British Aerospace, had received a 21 per cent pay rise last year, and the pay of Sir Richard Halpen, chairman of the Burton Group, went up from £348,000 to £342,000.

"Meanwhile, people on low pay, including many of our members, have seen a deterioration in their living standards. Prices have risen faster for the low paid staple food prices, council house rents, bus and rail fares are all up at a rate well above inflation.

"And these people don't get much help from tax cuts because the cuts benefit high income earners most.

"This is outrageous. It will be a very bitter winter indeed for many people if Kenneth Clarke and the Government get their way."

Britain's annual inflation rate remained at 2.4 per cent last month.

Mr Clarke said that, taking into account Budget tax cuts, the purchasing power of each pound people earned fell by very little more than 1/2p during the year.

Mod's offer ends six-year battle by sleepless villagers

By David Sapsted

Residents of the sleepless Somerset hamlet of Speckington have finally persuaded the Royal Navy to put them out of their misery by buying up their houses so that they can afford to move away.

The local people say that activity at the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton, where the Duke of York begins a five-month instructors course in helicopter warfare today, has increased so much since it was up-graded to a "front-line" station after the Falklands campaign that life is unbearable and their property unsaleable.

A six-year campaign waged by people living in Speckington has culminated in an offer by the Ministry of Defence to buy eight homes at full market value.

The ministry said yesterday: "Local residents complained, and consequently, we embarked on a very extensive noise-level survey. We are very conscious about noise near air stations these days.

"We found that, as far as these eight houses were concerned, noise levels were high, though not so high as to upset health. We decided to make an offer to buy at the current market price to enable any residents who wished to move out to do so."

The station, the home of air-sea rescue helicopters liable to be called out at any hour as well as a land base for Harrier jump-jets, already owns three cottages in the hamlet, bought three years ago because of the noise.

It is far from certain, however, that the remaining Speckington residents will want to move. Mrs Ellice Close, the mother of three young children, said yesterday that it all depended on how much they were offered.

She had campaigned to get the ministry to buy her eighteenth-century converted granary, little more than 200 yards from the Harrier ski-jump and 140 feet from the perimeter track used by jets awaiting take-off, but she said the final cash offer remained the important factor.

"We wouldn't consider moving were it not for the noise and we have to make sure that whatever we are finally offered will buy us something comparable. Certainly, the house is virtually unsaleable to anyone who knows the problems here," she said.

One resident determined to move is Mrs Daphne Fielder, a parish councillor, organiser of the battle against noise from the base. She feels most of the other locals will want to join her.

"The Falklands war was the start of absolute hell for us: aircraft flew 24 hours a day then. Afterwards, Yeovilton was upgraded to a front-line airfield.

Mod's offer ends six-year battle by sleepless villagers

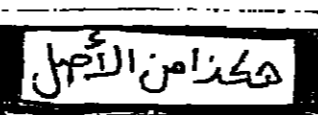
By David Sapsted

Before, they were flying fewer aircraft, fewer hours and at a level that could be tolerated. It is now getting worse and they have just introduced new aircraft which are noisier than the Harriers," she claims.

Although the ministry does not concede any dramatic increase in flying in recent years, cash will be made available to buy the properties at a price settled by independent valuations and, probably, subsequent haggling between the parties involved.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Rate
Australia	1.52
Canada	1.25
Denmark	1.36
France	1.66
Germany	1.93
Italy	1.36
Japan	161.50
Netherlands	1.66
Spain	166.50
Sweden	1.36
Switzerland	1.52
UK	1.00
USA	1.00
Yugoslavia	1.36



Support for a united front on defence

The Council for Social Democracy and the SDP Consultative Assembly in conference at Harrogate yesterday endorsed the attempt of Dr David Owen and other party leaders to get an agreed defence policy with the Liberals.

A slightly amended policy committee motion was carried welcoming the Alliance Joint Commission Report on Defence and Disarmament as an important contribution to the policy which the Alliance would present to the electorate in the next general election.

The need for the two parties to get their act together was strongly put by Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, who said that everyone yearned for an agreed Alliance position on defence.

This was particularly the case on the difficult issue of Polaris replacement, but any agreed policy must be based on genuine agreement and not on some cynical compromise, however ingeniously worded. The two parties had gone a long way towards achieving that agreement.

There was applause when he said he would not relish going into an election campaign



Mr Charles Kennedy telling the electors that the Alliance would decide the issue of Polaris replacement after it was safely in Government.

Mr Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, who opened the debate, moved the policy committee motion, which also supported the cancellation of the Trident missile system to avoid a new and provocative proliferation of the nuclear arms race and to release resources needed to strengthen Britain's conventional defence.

It called also for a full investigation of the practicability of a European minimum deterrent, and regretted the preoccupation with the Strategic Defence Initiative which was technically questionable, destabilised deterrence and obstructed progress towards peace and disarmament.

He said the modern defence dilemma hinged on the moral irony that as conventional force became increasingly expensive the nuclear shield became the cheaper option.

The appalling moral implications of nuclear weapons imposed a duty to decrease the nuclear arsenal progressively, step by step. Progress could not be achieved by omitting any of the steps.

The debate had excited so much attention within the party, they all wanted the culmination of the process to be the emergence of the most cohesive, most consistent and most considered defence policy any party bidding for government would put on offer to the country at the next election.

They should not be defensive. Agreements across the Alliance were many and profound. They believed in a full role in Nato, in strengthening conventional defence, in cancelling Trident, and that Polaris should be included in negotiations. There was a catalogue of agreed and sustainable Alliance defence policy which could be presented to the public.

The Government had forfeited any remaining claim to understand the nature of the special relationship with Washington. Frightening proof of this was the Prime Minister's grave error when she allowed the United States to use its British bases to launch the morally misguided strike against Libya and she compounded the folly by claiming to refuse permission which had been inconceivable. Mrs Thatcher had made the special relationship sycophantic devotion.

In the present situation it was no wonder that the Alliance was now seeking a more enlightened self interest in a European context with the defence posture in Nato. That must come not simply because of developments in the present American administration but because of the fact that they could not forever rely on an American presence in Europe and the American nuclear guarantee.

'Nuclear weapons are deterrent'

"We believe nuclear weapons do deter. We believe they have contributed profoundly to maintain the peace for over 40 years," he said.

Defence was not for the SDP a still-life study but a moving picture. Within that context the correct decision at Torquay last year must be viewed, and the willingness to at least maintain and then if necessary to replace Polaris should not be construed as replacement come what may. Rather it reflected the judgement on the likely balance of future probabilities.

Mr Ben Stoneham, Stevenage area party, moved an amendment, later carried, which said that instead of the policy document approved in Torquay last year being



Dr David Owen getting into a tram in the gymnasium before the important debate on defence policy at the SDP conference at Harrogate yesterday (Photographs: Peter Trevnor)

"reaffirmed" it should be recognized as the basis of SDP policy on defence and disarmament. They should not dwell on the past and this was the point of his amendment, which attempted to ensure that they avoided any further difficulties and fought the next election on a united defence platform. Anything else was unacceptable.

Flexibility to avoid impasse

If they simply reaffirmed their policy of a year ago, as he sought to do, they would be heading for serious trouble. In any event it would be an open invitation to the Liberals to seek to reaffirm all their previous policies and what a tragedy that would be when the joint commission underlined how close they had moved together.

"The last thing we want is the two Alliance partners returning to the trenches, which would end up like the two armies on the Somme fighting pointlessly over barren ground," he said. The electorate would be turned away from this mutual suicide pact.

This amendment would provide the flexibility to an agreed solution within the Alliance and to avoid the impasse which otherwise would annihilate them.

Mr Dickson Mabon, Ayrshire, moved an amendment, which was later remitted, deleting the reference to SDI. He said that he dissented from the view that SDI had obstructed progress towards peace and disarmament. The anxiety of the Soviets for a summit was based on the view

that America was serious about Star Wars.

Mr John Bancroft (Edinburgh), moving a motion endorsing the policies in the report of the joint SDP/Liberal commission on defence and disarmament, said that it was an acceptable compromise on policy and an improvement on previous policy statements. It reduced uncertainty and the scope for varied interpretations.

The joint commission had put greater emphasis on disarmament and the pursuit of common security. There was an implicit commitment to no first use of nuclear weapons.

Mr Alan Heron (Glasgow North), moving an amendment to delete the reference to endorsement of policies and instead welcomed certain commitments within the report, said the SDP needed to campaign on the basis that it was committed to nuclear disarmament. Their commitment to sound defence was overshadowing their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Mr Bruce Douglas-Mason, parliamentary candidate for Mitcham and Morden, said it was a delusion to imagine that the two parties could have separate policies on any major issue. He moved a motion which considered it imperative that the Liberals and the SDP had a united and responsible policy for defence and disarmament for the election and for government.

The motion welcomed the joint commission report and the further initiatives of the two leaders as important and realistic steps towards this objective. The preparation of the document had involved big concessions by the Liberals. They needed to be seen as a party with a mind of its own and the constitutional right to determine policy.

Risks of Star Wars policy

A strong plea for an agreed Alliance position on defence was made by Mr John Cartwright, MP for Woolwich, who said that they were not seeking reaffirmation of every dot and comma of their defence decisions at Torquay.

It was obvious that they should not regard every decision taken there as being carved on tablets of stone.

They saw the Stevenage amendment to the main motion as agreeing to the broad strands of defence policy and on that basis it should be accepted.

As for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), President Reagan had said it was not negotiable so its benefit as a negotiating card was substantially undermined. What they objected to was the fact that SDI had been suddenly elevated to supremacy over all other aspects of defence policy.

SDI distorted defence priorities, raised expectations, some of which were impos-

sible to meet, risked accelerating the nuclear arms race and extending that arms race into space. It also undermined existing arms control arrangements.

He went on: "We want to see the whole concept of ballistic missile research downgraded to the level it used to enjoy as a research programme before Reagan went into Disneyland delusions about the Star Wars programme."

Accepting the Edinburgh motion, on the need for an agreed defence policy with the Liberals for the next election, he said that there had been serious conflict with their partners, some SDP members of the joint commission would not have signed.

The report set out helpful criteria on which decisions could be made about the replacement of Polaris but which left open the question of timing.

The two Alliance parties had moved a long way to achieving agreement on the difficult issue of Polaris replacement. The case for greater European co-operation was obvious. If they endorsed the concept of closer European integration, why stop short of applying that principle to nuclear weapons? Why be totally dependent on the United States to provide the essential nuclear guarantee.



Mr John Cartwright

NUCLEAR ARMS

Poll shows small majority for ban

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, has only the slimmest of majorities within his party against Britain doing away with nuclear weapons, a new opinion poll disclosed yesterday.

The survey, conducted by Gallup for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, shows that 40 per cent of SDP voters believe Britain should get rid of nuclear weapons "whatever other countries do," while 52 per cent are against.

Among Liberal supporters, 55 per cent support Britain divesting itself of nuclear arms, while 39 per cent disagree. Within the Alliance as a whole 46 per cent want nuclear disarmament irrespective of other countries' actions, while 47 per cent disagree. Seven per cent don't know.

The poll, which coincided yesterday at Harrogate with the national launch of a CND campaign against Britain's bomb, shows that among all voters there is an almost even split on unilateral nuclear disarmament, with 46 per cent in favour and 44 per cent against.

Dr Owen and Mr David Steel will take little comfort from the response by the majority of the 945 people questioned by Gallup on a possible European nuclear deterrent. 73 per cent of Liberals and 69 per cent of Social Democrats are opposed to a Euro nuclear bomb, jointly controlled by Britain, France and West Germany.

While Dr Owen made clear at the weekend that a European minimum deterrent could not entail shared command and control by the countries involved, the poll findings were seized upon by CND leaders, who claimed Alliance leaders were out of touch with their own supporters' views.

Mr Paul Johns, chairman of a CND, said yesterday: "If the Alliance leaders are offering a European nuclear deterrent as a middle road and option for those who don't like the Conservative or Labour parties position the poll shows there is no room for that alternative. It does not even have support within the Alliance."

Awards for membership

The SDP now had 90,000 members and supporters and there had been an increase of 10 per cent in the number of members the SDP had recruited this year, Mrs Shirley Williams, president, said before awards for the recruiting of new members were presented by Dr David Owen, party leader.

She said that none the less there was a great deal more that could be done. The evidence from recruitment campaigns was that if they approached members of the public who supported the Alliance in the ballot box then one in 10 was willing to join or support the party. They needed a substantial drive for £4-a-year members.

Top awards for recruitment went to Tower Hamlets and the Somerset area party.

'Crucial' time for Alliance

Mr David Penhalligon, Liberal MP for Truro, bringing the good wishes of the Liberal Party on the opening day of the conference, said that the Alliance offered the electorate an opportunity to cast a supervote, the chance to keep out both Conservative and Labour parties.

What was debated and decided at the SDP and Liberal conferences would set up the Alliance challenge at the next General Election, he said. If they made a mess of it now there would probably not be time to recover; it was a crucial two weeks for the Alliance.

Higher fee

Against the advice of the platform as given by Mr William Rodgers, one of the founders of the party, council members voted by 95 to 85 to introduce a new annual party membership subscription for couples of £6. Moves to increase the £4 individual membership to £5 and to introduce a £2 fee for those out of work were rejected.

Today's agenda

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, will address the conference this morning. Issues being debated today will include energy, proportional representation, women's policy, and the section of the policy document Partnership for Progress dealing with freedom, democracy and better government.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The debate on Alliance defence policy yesterday passed off much more smoothly than might have been expected after the storms a few months ago. David Owen did not denounce the report from the joint SDP-Liberal Commission for its flabby equivocation over a replacement for Polaris. But neither was his freedom of manoeuvre restricted for the further negotiations that lie ahead with the Liberals.

The signal flashed to him from his party was green tinged with amber. He is free to continue insisting that there must be a successor to Polaris. He has not been told to compromise on essentials, but it has been indicated that he should not be unnecessarily provocative towards his critics, especially in the Liberal Party.

The whole tone of the defence debate within the Alliance has been transformed by introducing a new phrase into the discourse of Social Democrats and Liberals. No longer is it acceptable in polite Alliance society to speak of a British national deterrent. It is a minimum European deterrent that is now under discussion.

Euro deterrent brilliant device

As a political device this is brilliant. It gives the impression to those who were shocked at the replacement of Polaris because they were revolted by the very idea of a British deterrent that something quite different is now being considered.

The impression is also being conveyed that the concept of a European deterrent is a major and constructive exercise in pathfinding, which it would be small-minded to reject.

The two Davids and their colleagues were received with elaborate attention on their recent visit to Paris, and a spokesman for the French Socialists spoke at a fringe meeting in Harrogate on Saturday evening.

But this raises two questions. Will the trick work with the Liberals, and how much is really changed by decking the deterrent out in European clothes?

The trick has certainly worked with David Steel, but that may be simply because he wants it to work. His concern is above all to find a basis for agreement with the SDP, so that the Alliance can fight the election on a united program.

The comments from the Liberal representatives who have been at Harrogate over the weekend have created a much less favourable impression with the Social Democratic leadership. There will be difficulties between the two parties if the Liberals are prepared to contemplate a European deterrent only later on if hopes of an arms control settlement are frustrated.

But what would a minimum European deterrent actually involve? It would certainly not mean joint operational control of the Anglo-French nuclear forces. National nuclear forces would remain subject to national political control.

Feasibility of joint projects

There might be agreement on joint targeting and the co-ordination of submarine missions. If the timing of refits for each country's submarines could be synchronized, then both Britain and France might possibly be able to dispense with a submarine or so.

Rather more ambitiously Britain might be persuaded to buy the French M4 or M5 nuclear missiles. But they might be even more expensive than Trident.

The most ambitious collaboration would be for Britain and France to develop together a new generation of nuclear weapons. But nobody yet knows whether that would be feasible or what the costs would be.

At this stage, therefore, a minimum European deterrent remains a clever political idea to serve a political purpose. The practical implications are uncertain because the exploration has simply not been taken that far as yet.

What is clear, however, is that clever though the idea may be, it does not remove the need to choose on the basis of principle. Either the Alliance will go into the election committed to having some successor for Polaris, or it will not.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sale of weapons to guerillas proposed

Britain should consider selling arms to the guerrilla movement in South Africa once sanctions had inevitably failed, Mr Laurence Cockcroft, prospective Parliamentary candidate for Halifax, said in a debate on international co-operation.

"We are now on a countdown to a major confrontation between the African National Congress and the force of the South African government," he said.

He asked if the United Kingdom and EEC were going to stand by while the ANC was supplied with arms from the Eastern bloc and the South African government could brand them as Communists.

"Are we prepared to follow the logic of what I believe will be the failure of sanctions and consider the supply of arms to the guerrilla movement? I believe we should," he said.

This should be linked to an international fund to finance the resettlement of whites, Indians and anyone else who wished to leave South Africa. Mr David Marquand, reply-

ing to the debate for the policy committee, said that the SDP stood for practical, real internationalism.

The only answer was to work within an increasingly supra-national European community to which real decision-making power was transferred by member states. This was the place where Britain could best hope to exert an influence for good on the rest of the world.

All too often the path to drugs despair began with the green channel at Dover, which was either unmanned or unmanned. Mr Geoffrey Nice, prospective parliamentary candidate for Dover, said during the same debate in a protest at "blind" cuts in the Civil Service.

In Dover there were massive quantities of freight entering the country, less than 1 per cent of it subject to inspection. The Government now acknowledged that more than 60 per cent of heroin got through that basically unchecked freight.

NATIONALIZATION

BT return to state control is rejected

Any suggestion that the SDP favoured renationalization of British Telecom and British Gas would be a gift to Mr Norman Tebbit and the Conservative Party in the run-up to the next election Mr Ian Wigglesworth, MP for Stockton South, said during a debate on competition and the consumer.

His plea for conference to reject decisively an amendment, to the policy committee report on competition, was supported from the floor. It had called for renationalization with compensation of private industries where competition was unobtainable and service supply needed protection.

In addition to the mountain that would be made out of it by the Government, what of the 1.6 million BT shareholders and the millions who would buy shares in British Gas? he asked.

The cost of renationalization also made it a non-starter at around £14,000 million for BT and British Gas alone, the equivalent of the present public sector borrowing requirement.

The policy committee wanted to open up competition of the public corporations and the large privatized monopolies, and introduce tighter regulation. That made sense, he said.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Focus on grants deplored

It was disappointing that student interests somehow always put at the top of their agendas the level of the grant. Ms Anne Sofer, chairman of the SDP working group on higher education, said in replying to a debate on the group's consultative paper *More means Better: A new vision for Higher Education*.

The main proposals in the document involve a 30 per cent increase in student numbers by 1995, a 20 per cent rise in the 18 to 19 age group entering higher education, the introduction of free part-time education, and a more open and flexible system enabling people to build up qualifications in stages and to transfer between courses and colleges without having to start again at the beginning.

She said that the problems of higher education were desperate. They were talking about the wrong things because their debate had been dominated by student interests and student maintenance was not the only issue in higher education.

They must think about the 83 per cent of young people who did not go into higher education. It was a scandal that the figure was as high as that.

The strongest criticism of the consultative document came from Miss Jackie Sadek, Tower Hamlets, who said that the result was a cross experience by the policy committee pointing out that all the alternatives were unattractive, but not pinning their colours to the mast and coming out with solutions.

Mr Andrew Hartley, president of the SDP students, said that the party must take into account the full cost of the expansion envisaged. Students proposed a degree of parental contribution be retained but taxed at source. Direct taxation would ensure each student got a grant.

Mrs Sofer said that the document did come down against student loans. The idea of taxing parents was party policy from a document of 1983 but since then a number of people considered the impact that might have on family relationships was frightening.

Compulsorily taxing parents might be counter-productive. It was mentioned in the document and the policy committee and working group wanted views on it.

● A move to commit the SDP to the provision of a statutory right to two years pre-school education for all under-5s was rejected.

SPENDING

Increases seen as standstill

An emergency motion rejecting the pretence that increases in spending limits announced by the Government for 1987-88 represented anything more than a standstill in real terms, was passed unanimously.

It said that as national income permitted, increases should be devoted to maintenance of local services.

Mr Marvey Cole, Mid Hants, said that government proposals amounted to a recognition that the level of unavoidable expenditure was going to remain unchanged.

The object was to persuade the electorate that services ought to be held to their present level.

Owen sets tone for election campaign

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, set the pattern for the party's campaign in the run-up to the next election when he said on the first day of the conference that the key issues would be unemployment, taxation and defence.

Behind that, he said, would be underlying concern at the lack of cohesion in this country, violence and drugs, deep concern about standards in the National Health Service and schools, and a realization that the economy was dangerously weak.

Speaking in support of Partnership for Progress, the consultative paper produced in conjunction with the Liberal Party, Dr Owen said that it was not just a question of forging a partnership between the two parties, but out of the country as a whole.

"We must not fall into the habit of the old parties," he said, "of allowing those of us who are activists and politically committed, to be the dominant voices when we forge policies for the whole nation."

These policies would have to view against how they would be accepted in government by people who did not think constantly about politics they would have to marry up with their fears and aspirations.

The document was the start of a consultative process first in the conference, then in the Liberal conference, and then the special conference of local government.

It had been a good year for the Alliance nationally and locally, Dr Owen said. Not much was heard now from the other parties about the chaos and confusion they had predicted in balanced councils. The fact was that people were getting used to negotiated politics.

It was possible to create a balance between enterprise and welfare, market economy and social justice, economic development and environmental integrity, equality for women and support for the family, British achievement and international co-operation.

Never before had such a detailed and constructive document as Partnership for Progress been produced for

democratic consultation by two political parties. It laid the foundation for the Alliance programme for government.

It was not a question of it being a Labour or a Conservative programme, said Dr Owen, but a joint, negotiated programme.

He was determined in the weeks and months after the next election to influence and shape the future of this country. All energies should be put into achieving a position where they could change the political strategy and future of the nation.

Mrs Shirley Williams, President of the SDP, successfully moving acceptance of the consultative paper, said that it represented a completely new innovation in British politics - the ability of two parties to agree one policy after another, and to construct between them a platform on which to fight a general election.

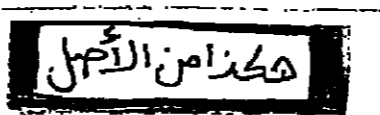
"It is something we in the SDP have now become so used to that we have almost stopped recognizing what an astonishing achievement it is," he said. "If you do not believe

that, then go back and read the reports on the first association between the SDP and Liberals in 1981 when there were endless reports of division and squabbling."

The paper embodied the decisions reached between representatives of the SDP and the Liberals on one issue after the other, she said.

The run-up to the next election would be rough and they would have to be ready to fight back, she said. It would be a scurrilous campaign in which their opponents would be capable of trying anything in the political book.

The document set out five crucial planks in that platform which characterized the SDP and Liberal parties: commitment to reverse economic decline; fundamental commitment to social justice; commitment to the defence of the country and its allies; a new approach to fellow human beings in the third world; and underpinning all these reforms, constitutional reforms which would make them possible.



هكذمان الأصيل

Bias claimed against women in jail sentence decisions

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) is to express concern to the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, about sexual discrimination against women over jail sentencing.

The director of Nacro, Miss Vivien Stern, is sending him a copy of evidence on women's treatment in the criminal justice system which Nacro is giving to the Commons home affairs committee inquiry into imprisonment.

Under plans expected to be announced by Mr Hurd at the Conservative Party conference, the Judicial Studies Board, which is responsible for passing Court of Appeal guidance to the judiciary, will be given a statutory duty to assemble and publish guidelines.

Miss Stern said yesterday that sentencers' over-readiness to send people to prison was one of the most urgent issues requiring attention.

"Most of the women who are sent to prison should not be there", she said. "Only a small fraction have committed violent offences and a much higher proportion than of male prisoners have no or few previous convictions."

One cause of concern is the high use of jail for women on remand: two-thirds are later judged not to need a prison sentence.

That means that last year nearly 2,000 women were behind bars without a prison sentence being passed.

In 1984, of 3,291 females remanded in custody before trial or sentence, 1,052, or 38 per cent of those for whom the outcome is recorded, received custodial sentences. In comparison, 62 per cent of males received custodial sentences.

Discrimination is also disclosed by examining immediate custody rates against women's criminal careers. Of those for whom details of previous convictions were available, 17 per cent given immediate custody had no previous convictions and 36 per cent had two or fewer.

In comparison, 6 per cent of the men had no previous convictions and 22 per cent had two or fewer.

Nacro thinks it disturbing that a much smaller proportion of women receive community service orders.

Mrs Lena Dominelli, of Warwick University, found that most magistrates and probation officers interviewed claimed that they took special factors into account for all offenders. But the figures showed that concern with women's domestic responsibilities was not translated into leniency.

Air defence: 1

£1bn shakeup for ground radar

In the first of two articles, Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, looks at the £1 billion programme to modernize air defence radars and other systems, aimed at ensuring that, despite great advances in Soviet aircraft, they will continue to be able to intrude into Britain's air defence area only at their peril.

Britain's air defences are undergoing their most comprehensive modernization since the Second World War, at a cost of at least £5 billion, with virtually every aspect ranging from aircraft, to communications systems being updated.

Much of that work has received a good deal of public attention, most notably in the case of tortured efforts to bring into use a new Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft, and in the programme to acquire 165 Tornado aircraft in the air defence version.

But one aspect, that of modernizing the ground-based radars and communications and control equipment, which are the cement of the whole system, has received relatively little attention, even though it is going to cost about £1 billion.

The programme is known rather clumsily as the Improved United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment (IUKADGE).

The United Kingdom Air Defence Region is a vast area, which extends from Iceland and Norway in the north far into the Western Approaches.

It is important not only because in war it would defend Britain and the convoys approaching these islands from air attack, but also because it would have to guard against attacks coming from Soviet bases in the Arctic which could outflank the Nato

air defences in central Europe. The need for a radical improvement of the system was recognized in the 1970s.

The development of new weapons systems, and above all of new forms of electronic warfare, meant that to be effective in the 1990s and onwards, radars and command, control and communications systems would have to be much more resistant to jamming and other forms of electronic attack and much less easy for enemy attackers to locate.

Because of the speed of modern weapon systems, and particularly of long-range missiles, IUKADGE would also have to be able to react virtually instantly to a threat, with information being conveyed throughout the entire system within seconds.

That demanded the use of computer capacity on a huge scale. But it also required a completely secure ground-based communications system, which could survive in war conditions.

That is being provided by the Uniter system. Thirteen modern radars are being installed, and the RAF expects to have received about half of them before the end of this year.

The radars will be mobile, being capable of moving rapidly between locations, both on and off roads, and will be protected by decoys.

Tomorrow: Continuous modernization

Science report

Lasers to make flood control more accurate

By John Newell

A research project which measures flooding in an artificial water course, using new laser-based instruments, aims to make flood control less of an art and more of a science.

Not enough is known about the forces involved in flooding, defences against which have cost water authorities an average of £73 million each year for the past six years.

Dr Peter Wormleaton, of the Civil Engineering Department of Queen Mary College, London University, is using an experimental flood channel at Hydraulics Research Ltd, at Wallingford-on-Thames, a laboratory that was Government-owned before its recent privatization, to make exact measurements of the forces involved in various patterns of flooding.

The Wallingford flood channel, which was commissioned in November last year, has a 56 metre-long channel of water flowing between banks five metres wide. The water flow can be controlled precisely so as to create any required degree of flooding.

As water spills out over the banks on each side, the slow shallow flow of water across the banks interacts with the deeper, more rapid, flow down

the channel. Those interactions largely determine the forces with which flood water piles up on control embankments, and how effective channels dug to contain flooding will be.

In the artificial flooding, Dr Wormleaton is using an advanced laser anemometry system in which laser light is shone down 20 metre-long flexible optical fibres to a probe, which can be placed anywhere in the test area.

Two separate laser beams are focused on to significant points in the water flow, where eddy currents are formed. The two beams interact to form interference fringes, patterns of light and dark bands.

As particles of silt, suspended in the water, move across the fringe pattern, the intensity of light reflected back from the particles depends on whether a particle is moving through a light or a dark band.

The reflected light is continually collected and measured. From changes in light intensity, and the known spacing of the interference fringes, the speed of the current wherever the laser beams intersect can be measured accurately.



Mr Magdi Yacoub, the transplant surgeon, with Jamie Gavin and Kirsty Vowles, the world's two youngest surviving heart/lung transplant patients, at the start of a fun run they joined yesterday to raise money for Harefield Hospital, in Middlesex.

Plea to keep castles open in winter

The British Tourist Authority wants country houses and castles to stay open all winter in an attempt to increase off-peak holiday bookings.

The authority's director of marketing, Mr Alan Jefferson, is campaigning for the trade to beat the winter shutdown.

The campaign comes after a meeting in London at which tour operators said there was a customer demand for travel during the winter months but too few attractions were open.

Two royal anniversaries are expected to help tourism next year: the 150th anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria and the 400th anniversary

of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

Many events north and south of the border are being planned to commemorate Mary's death. The Scottish campaign will be launched on February 8, the anniversary of her execution.

Prosecution service

New system starts with severe shortage of lawyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

With just two weeks to go before the crown prosecution service is operational throughout the country, London still faces a severe shortage of lawyers who are taking over responsibility for prosecutions from the police.

In London the old metropolitan police prosecuting solicitors' department had about eighty lawyers who did only the most serious prosecutions or those of particular sensitivity. But under the new service the whole of London will need about 300 lawyers.

The shortage has meant a heavy reliance on freelance lawyers from the outside profession.

Apart from the sheer number of those needed, one reason for the shortage is thought to be the salary. The crown prosecutor comes in on a salary scale of £11,140 to £14,840, plus London weighting. Prosecutors from outside London are unwilling to move into the capital on that pay.

London is estimated to have recruited at best two-thirds of the number it needs in some areas, and little more than half in others.

The capital had a bigger job than the rest of the country because until now the police have done most routine prosecutions in court. Else-

where, there were prosecuting solicitors' departments that have formed the core of the new service and its network of salaried lawyers.

The final pieces of the London jigsaw fall into place on Wednesday when Camberwell Green, Wells Street, Lambeth and South Western magistrates' courts go over to the new service, ready for October 1.

The service started on April 1 in the six metropolitan areas outside London and on October 1 starts in the shires and in London, where it has been coming into force on a rolling basis.

As everywhere else in the country, there have been complaints of lost papers and wrong cases going to the wrong courts, with general chaos and confusion.

Mr Anthony Edwards, an east London defence solicitor doing freelance work for the service, says: "I have not yet done a case where I have not had to chase a set of papers".

But the problems arise mainly because of the system's newness. Now all cases, except for a few such as those involving national security, go to the crown prosecution service, which for the first time provides an independent review of whether a case should be brought to court.

The change has been a shock for the police, the courts, and magistrates. Instead of a police officer standing up in court and presenting a case, a crown prosecution service lawyer now appears and takes the whole list for the morning.

Bow Street, where a pilot service started a year ago, highlights the problems elsewhere.

The lawyers also need more time to review the files than the police did. That is not just inexperience, according to Mr Richard Dawe, senior crown prosecutor at Bow Street.

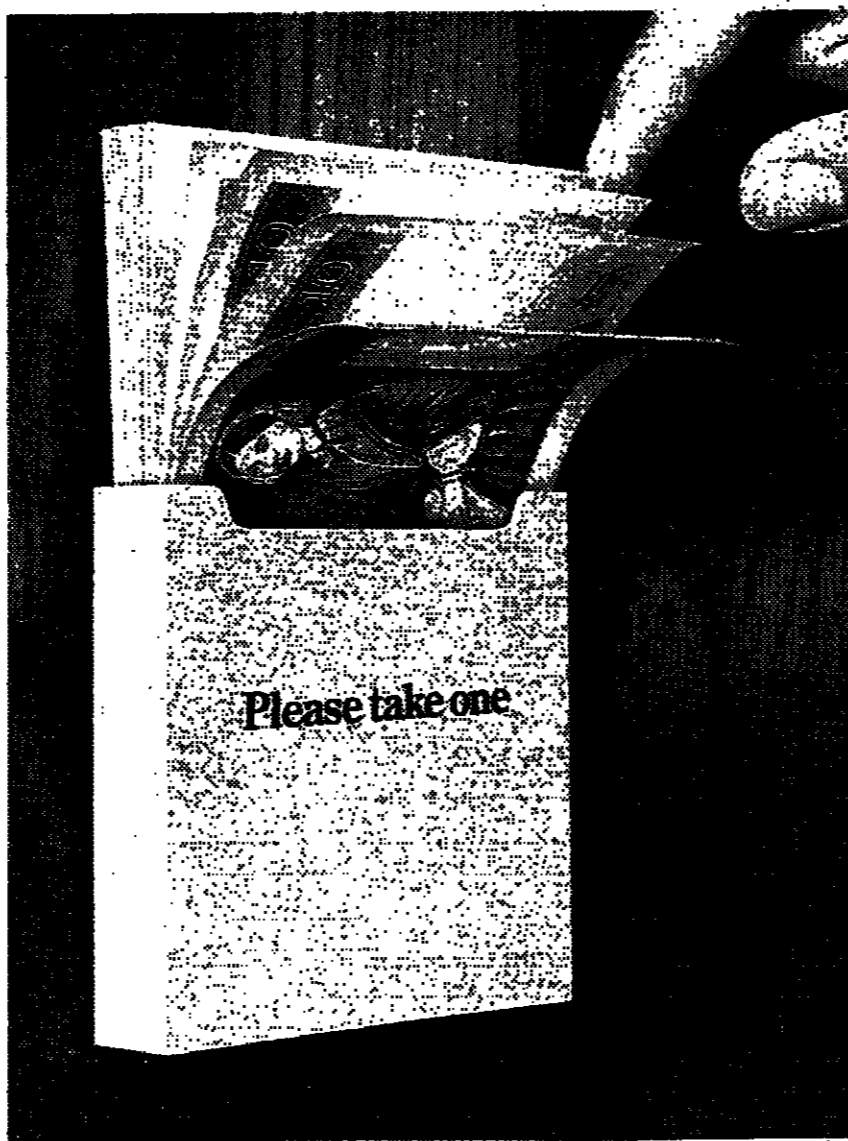
He said: "The police will usually have seen the case through from the complaint into court. They know it. We are always starting cold."

Even with experience, the job of applying the Attorney General's guidelines on what cases should be prosecuted means that the process will take longer. But that should be more than balanced by throwing out poor cases that will not then work their way through the court system.

In Bow Street, things are settling down. A new breed of lawyer, skilled in reviewing all kinds of criminal case, is emerging and the prosecution service, Mr Dawe says, is "becoming a way of life for those of us in it".

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Terror preview to Asian Games

North Korea suspect after five killed in Seoul airport blast

Seoul (Reuters) - A bomb blast in the crowded arrival hall of Seoul's Kimpo Airport yesterday killed five people and wounded 26, police said. The incident increased fears that terrorists would try to sabotage the Asian Games starting next Saturday, and police say they are investigating whether North Korea was involved in the attack. A police spokesman said that no foreigners or athletes were hurt in the explosion, which was caused by a bomb planted in a rubbish bin near a terminal gate. The airport was busy at the weekend with sportsmen and officials from 28 nations flying in for the Games.

Seoul (Reuters) - A bomb blast in the crowded arrival hall of Seoul's Kimpo Airport yesterday killed five people and wounded 26, police said. The incident increased fears that terrorists would try to sabotage the Asian Games starting next Saturday, and police say they are investigating whether North Korea was involved in the attack.

Catalans injure 4 in Olympics protest

Barcelona - Catalan separatists said yesterday they had planted a car bomb which injured three paramilitary Civil Guards and a pedestrian in this northern city on Saturday night (Reuters reports). The separatist group Terra Llura (Free Land) made the claim and warned of further attacks.

Chun Doo Hwan on visit to Burma. Pyongyang denied involvement in the attack, but Burma convicted two North Korean military officers of having carried it out. A force of 100,000 police

Amal seize Unifil blast suspects

Beirut (AP) - The Shia Muslim Amal militia has arrested two men suspected of detonating a bomb that killed a French soldier in the UN Interim Force (Unifil) in Lebanon and wounded three others, according to reports yesterday.

In addition to the perceived threat of terrorism from North Korea or elsewhere, South Korean authorities are taking seriously threats by radical students here to send "commandos" to disrupt the games. Officials said that two Seoul universities will suspend classes for up to three weeks from tomorrow to prevent students from staging planned demonstrations.

Gibraltar defies judge over historic building demolition

The Gibraltar Government has admitted to a "technical illegality" in issuing a permit to demolish the Old Command Education Centre in the Rock so that a £4.5 million development can go ahead.



A five-storey building in the centre of Kalamata in southern Greece reduced to a tangle of concrete and twisted balcony railings after the weekend earthquake which killed at least 17 people. Fourteen of this flat block's two dozen residents were pulled alive from the rubble.

Government admits 'technical illegality'

Gibraltar defies judge over historic building demolition

From Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent, Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Government has admitted to a "technical illegality" in issuing a permit to demolish the Old Command Education Centre in the Rock so that a £4.5 million development can go ahead. The six-storey Cornwall's Centre development by Taylor Woodrow of Gibraltar Ltd has been described as a potential "Cove Garden of the Mediterranean". It is the biggest single redevelopment opportunity in the centre of Gibraltar and will include offices, flats, shops, restaurants and car parking. Demolition work is continuing in defiance of a Supreme Court ruling by Mr Justice Alcantara on September 1 that the demolition order, issued by the Development and Planning Commission in July, was contrary to the Gibraltar city plan and therefore not in conformity with the town planning ordinance. The action against the Government was taken by Mr Lionel Culatto, a barrister, and Mr John Langdon, an architect, individually and as chairman and deputy chairman of the Gibraltar Conservation Society. The senior Crown Counsel, the Attorney-General's deputy, has lodged an appeal against the judge's decision.

Cellars to be US wartime bunkers

Bonn - The US Army is secretly converting cellars in West German hotels, office blocks and public buildings into command posts to be used in war, a West German newspaper said yesterday. (Our Correspondent writes). Bild am Sonntag said that the work, costing about £1.3 million, was being done because the Americans feared that their few existing command posts in German towns could fall quickly into enemy hands if Warsaw Pact troops were to invade the West.

Sea treasure is recovered

Moscow (AFP) - The remaining gold bars aboard the wreck of the British Second World War cruiser HMS Edinburgh have been brought to the surface, according to Pravda. The treasure went to the bottom of the Barents Sea when the Edinburgh was torpedoed by a German submarine in 1942.

Troop protest

Madrid - Five Spanish members of Greenpeace, including their leader, Señor Javier Pastor, were arrested by civil guards in the naval base of Mallorca when they tried to stop a troop ship leaving for military manoeuvres.

Killer deserter

Belgrade (AP) - A Yugoslav soldier armed with a sub-machine gun deserted and killed two people before being arrested.

Unruly crew

Perth (AFP) - About 30 crew of the British America's Cup team were ordered to leave a Fremantle restaurant after allegedly being involved in unruly scenes, the Sunday Times of Perth reported.

Tapestry theft

Ambusson (Reuters) - Eighteen tapestries designed by Salvador Dali, Jean Cocteau and other modern artists have been stolen from a private gallery in this central French town.

Escape foiled

Berlin (AP) - Two East Germans were arrested after having braved guards from Communist border forces to try to crash their car through the Drewitz frontier checkpoint to the West.

Ferry tragedy

Dhaka - More than 50 people died when an overcrowded ferry boat sank in the River Ariakhan with an estimated 250 people on board in southern Bangladesh, about 110 miles from Dhaka.

Pilot dies

Hoopdoff, The Netherlands (AP) - The pilot of a British postal plane died when his aircraft crashed minutes before landing at Schiphol airport, Amsterdam.

Zoo convoy

Taipei (Reuters) - More than 200,000 people lined streets on a 10-mile route to see caged animals driven from the Taipei Zoological Garden to a new zoo in the suburbs of the city.

Tanker hit

Manama (AFP) - A French oil tanker, the 239,726-tonne Brissac, was hit by two rockets in the Gulf off Kuwait. They did not explode and there were no injuries.

Cleaner Rome

Rome (AP) - Thousands of Romans took to the streets with brooms and bags in a volunteer effort to help to clear the city of litter.

Peres wants US backing for Middle East peace talks

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem. Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, left for Washington yesterday for talks with President Reagan in which he is expected to give a further push to the Middle East peace process after his summit meeting in Egypt last week. He is expected to try to obtain US backing for a peace conference to which he and President Mubarak of Egypt agreed in principle. Mr Peres may also meet Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, with a view to sounding out Moscow's position on such a conference. The Israeli Ambassador in Washington met his Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuri Dubinin, at the end of last week, giving rise to speculation that such a meeting may be in the offing. Speaking before he left yesterday, Mr Peres would not confirm whether he will meet Mr Shevardnadze. But he did say that Israel would have no objection if the Soviet Union took part in a peace conference, provided that it agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations. He indicated, however, that he was not optimistic, in which case a way would have to be found for a peace conference "without rejections". Mr Peres dismissed reports that Washington was not enthusiastic about a peace conference that would bring Moscow back into Middle East peacemaking, an almost

Amal seize Unifil blast suspects

Beirut (AP) - The Shia Muslim Amal militia has arrested two men suspected of detonating a bomb that killed a French soldier in the UN Interim Force (Unifil) in Lebanon and wounded three others, according to reports yesterday. Newspapers quoted an Amal official in Beirut, the village where the ambush occurred, as saying Amal believed the suspects played a principal role in the attack. They quoted the official as saying the two men were seized by Amal militiamen on a hilltop overlooking the spot where the remote-control bomb, containing an estimated 65 lb of explosives, was detonated on Saturday as a French Unifil patrol passed. The Amal official was quoted as saying militiamen discovered two other explosive charges near the ambush site. One was a 120 mm artillery shell linked to an electrical wire in a ditch near the bomb scene; the other a warhead from a Soviet-made Grad rocket covered with hay. The fighting between the nine-nation Unifil and Shia factions loyal to Iran has raised concern about the 5,800-member force sent into south Lebanon in 1978 to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli forces, who had thrust into the region against Palestinian guerrillas. Militiamen killed: Shia guerrillas killed three Israeli-backed militiamen in a pre-dawn attack yesterday in the western Bekaa valley.

Baghdad envoy dies in car bomb explosion

From A Correspondent, Karachi. An Iraqi consular official, Mr Nabhat Abdul Salam Abdul Latif, was killed and another man hurt when a bomb exploded in his car yesterday morning. Police said a device planted in the car killed the diplomat instantly and injured his unidentified passenger. The diplomat was on his way to the consulate when his car exploded near a commercial area in Clifton, an upper-class area. A strict security cordon has been thrown round the Iraqi consulate and armed guards posted at other Iraqi offices and businesses. Officials at the Iraqi consulate have declined to comment.

Australian fights off French for top post

From A Bridge Correspondent Miami Beach. A Sydney lawyer, Mr Denis Howard, aged 53, was elected president of the World Bridge Federation on the eve of the world championships on Saturday in succession to Señor Jaime Ortiz Patino. Señor Ortiz Patino had resigned after 10 years in which world tournament bridge has revolutionized the number of member countries and the scope of the WBF. Under Señor Ortiz Patino's presidency, tournaments have increased substantially and procedural changes have gone a long way to putting the

Russia outsmarts Reagan on Daniloff

The release of Mr Nicholas Daniloff, though welcome to his friends and colleagues, may rebound damagingly on the Reagan Administration. Already questions are being asked here and accusations of ineptitude being bandied about in Congress and among the press. For few doubt that the Russians have won a notable victory. As one official said: "We were eyeball-to-eyeball with the Russians, and we blinked." Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, was unusually ill at ease when he announced what he said was an interim arrangement to spare Mr Daniloff the anguish of continued detention in a Moscow prison. He argued that there was no equivalence with the Zakharov case. The Russian would still have to stand trial for espionage. But the more vehemently he insisted there would not be a swap, the clearer it became that this was exactly what the

Washington View

Administration has been obliged to accept. The US really had little other choice. The KGB, terrified at what US interrogators might learn from Mr Gennady Zakharov of Soviet spy operations in the US, used the arrest of a presumably innocent reporter to put pressure on Washington. And given the confusion in the Administration, it paid off. At first the US proposed a swap. But with the growing public furor, and under pressure from the right to stand firm in the face of Soviet blackmail, the Administration withdrew the offer and announced a measured escalation. In the end, however, it was unable to let its anger run the full course, for fear of wrecking the new round of arms control talks, which began on Wednesday, and the Shultz meetings with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, starting on Thursday. Both President Reagan and

Mrs Reagan in drugs fight warning

Washington - Mrs Nancy Reagan yesterday said she opposed unlimited use of military forces to try to curb drugs in the United States. But she said the whole nation had to fight drugs and just throwing money at the problem was not going to solve it (Michael Bin-

Paper puts caterer in KGB soup

New York (NYT) - A Long Island caterer found himself embroiled in superpower diplomacy on Saturday after the front page of the local paper, Newsday, carried his phone number for KGB headquarters in Moscow, without international dialing codes. The number was in huge type under a headline warning "Keep in Touch" and informing readers that Nicholas Daniloff, the US reporter freed on Friday in Moscow, had to call the KGB's HQ daily. More than 150 people rang the Marra household in Washington. "The way I'm getting cursed at, they think they're talking to the KGB," Mr Marra said. The New York office of the United States marshal also got an abnormally high number of calls on Saturday. Newsday also printed that number, indicating that Mr Gennady Zakharov, the Soviet physicist released in New York on Friday, would have to check in daily.

Stockholm hopes for a diplomatic milestone

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm. As the 35-nation Stockholm security conference enters its final week of negotiations today there is optimism that agreement will be reached, the aim of which will be the reduction of the risk of East-West conflict in Europe. It is the question of how close it will come to that intention that is in doubt. Basically the agreement will allow for greater openness concerning military activities. What Stockholm will produce on Friday is likely to be an agreement to reinforce the measures already set out in the Helsinki agreement of 1975. "What Stockholm will do is change the verbs of that agreement," explained one Western delegation head. "May will become must." The most important breakthrough achieved in more than two years of talks has been the Soviet Union's recent agreement to on-site inspection of military manoeuvres. What the conference now has to decide is how many inspections are necessary.

Day of reckoning arrives for EEC

Sanctions against South Africa likely but UK seeks unanimous stand

From Richard Owen, Brussels

European Community foreign ministers, under the chairmanship of Sir Geoffrey Howe, finally face the decision today over sanctions against South Africa which was put off at the EEC summit three months ago, and are likely to go ahead with limited measures. "This is the day of reckoning," one diplomat said.

A move toward sanctions after months of reluctance was foreshadowed at an informal foreign ministers' meeting in Britain a week ago.

Britain, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers, will refrain from blocking sanctions, provided the other 11 EEC states are all in favour.

The three measures envisaged at the Hague are a ban on South African coal, iron and steel, a ban on gold coins, and a halt to new investments in South Africa. Britain is insisting on a unanimous decision, but much still depends on the attitude of West Germany and Portugal, which have important links with South Africa.

Countries such as The Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark are pushing for decisive action against Pretoria on the ground that Europe's political credibility is at stake.

Sir Geoffrey will report to the meeting on his talks in Washington last week, when he said that he remained sceptical of the value of sanctions.

Diplomats said implementation of the Hague measures seemed inevitable, but the EEC still had delaying devices at its disposal, including the argument that any European

measures should be co-ordinated with America and Japan.

The Hague summit in June saw Sir Geoffrey to southern Africa in a final attempt to persuade Pretoria to release political prisoners and begin dismantling apartheid, but warned that limited sanctions would follow if the EEC judged that his mission had failed. Today's meeting is most likely to conclude that the mission did fail.

Imports of South African coal, iron, steel and gold coins into Europe amount to a little over £1 billion a year, or one-sixth of total South African exports to the EEC. The ban on new investment would have most impact on Britain, where investments amount to an estimated £6 billion.

On the other hand, investments have been falling, and Britain already operates a ban on new investment as well as a ban on gold coins.

Sir Geoffrey is expected to argue that, although he failed to persuade President Botha to make "any significant shift over apartheid," diplomatic contacts with Pretoria have not been exhausted.

He will also join the Dutch in urging the EEC to take positive as well as negative measures by increasing aid to critics of apartheid in South Africa, including black trade unions. The 1987 EEC budget, presented to the European Parliament last week, sets aside £10 million for positive aid.

According to British sources, complications arise over co-ordination with Washington because of differences between Congress and the

Reagan Administration which mean that the US is "operating in a different time frame from us".

Even if the EEC goes it alone over sanctions, difficulties could still arise over whether a trade embargo is the prerogative of national governments, which would need time to elaborate them, or whether embargoes fall within the orbit of the Commission in Brussels. Last week the Commission said it was drawing up detailed plans for the implementation of sanctions on behalf of the Twelve.

Apart from South Africa, the ministers face a full agenda as EEC business resumes after the summer, including international terrorism and future EEC relations with Turkey.

Despite vociferous objections from Greece, the ministers will tomorrow form themselves into the EEC-Turkey Association Council to consider reviving the EEC's Association agreement with Ankara, which dates from 1964 but which was broken off six years ago when martial law came into force in Turkey.

When the ANC rules, page 12



Mr Czeslaw Bielecki, a Polish opposition activist, greeting his sons in Warsaw after his release from prison on Saturday.

Bujak hopes he need never hide again

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Mr Zbigniew Bujak disappeared. The underground Solidarity leader, driven in a secret police car through the steel gates of Rakowiecka prison,

was taken home to a Warsaw suburb, the most prominent beneficiary of the Polish Government's amnesty. He evaporated for six hours. Perhaps to see friends still in hiding, perhaps not.

When he tracked him down at the weekend he looked fit. His speech was more disciplined than before the military crackdown in the winter of

1981. After martial law he was in hiding for four and a half years and was regarded as Poland's most wanted man until he was trapped on May 31 this year. This was his first real talk in freedom.

His priorities now: "We should build a leadership that would be able to function in the open, without hiding and to end the underground stage. Hiding, going underground, is a very heavy burden for those who have to take such a decision. So first of all I would like to do something for my friends who still have to hide."

"Second, I would like to do something for the union and, third, I have very complicated family problems. To solve all of my family problems will require a lot of time and work."

General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Interior Minister, said on Polish television that the secret police had exposed 281 different underground cells of Solidarity.

Mr Bujak offered only tentative advice to those still working in the clandestine opposition. "If it turns out that there is a possibility of the opposition working in the open, then they will be able to leave the underground. If it

emerges that there is no possibility for the opposition and Solidarity to work in the open — if, say, someone goes to jail for such activities — then others will go underground, will start hiding."

Mr Bujak said he would have to meet as soon as possible his colleagues in Solidarity.

● WARSAW: Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity trade union, and 48 former political prisoners yesterday attended a Mass to celebrate the release of the prisoners under a government amnesty.

Sniper's shots 'led to hijack massacre'

From Hassan Akhtar
Islamabad

Shots fired by a government sniper at the hijacked Pan Am aircraft in Karachi may have led to the massacre in which 22 people died, it was claimed yesterday.

The three shots, fired from the control tower at the hijackers' commander, failed to penetrate the flight deck's 1½-in thick windscreen.

The rescue plan was drawn up by Brigadier Tariq Mahmood of the Pakistan Army's Special Services Group, it was reported in *The Sunday Times* yesterday. One of the three bullets was recovered from under the nose of the aircraft.

The official account has been that, after lights inside the aircraft went out when an outside generator failed, the hijackers herded the passengers into the middle of the aircraft and opened fire.

As well as the four Arabic-speaking hijackers in custody, Islamabad police later arrested a Mr Salman Taraiki, claimed to be a Libyan official born in Tripoli in 1955, on his arrival from Karachi.

About 200 Indians were among the 400 passengers and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accused Pakistan of a clumsy anti-hijack operation.

Pretoria accused in lesbian spy case

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A woman claims a South African security agent who approached her to spy at the Australian Embassy in Pretoria threatened to expose her as a lesbian if she did not agree to pass on information, it was reported here yesterday.

Miss Vanessa Twine, aged 23, a South African citizen who worked as a receptionist in the visa section, instead informed officials.

She was reported in the Johannesburg *Sunday Times* yesterday as saying: "I offered to resign but they would not accept it."

"I was told that what I did with my private life was my own affair and that they were very satisfied with my work."

"I did not mention I was a lesbian when I joined the embassy in July because I did not think there was any need for them to know."

Diplomatic sources expressed surprise yesterday that more extensive inquiries had not been made into her background before she was employed in a relatively sensitive post.

Apart from working as a receptionist, she also handled all Pretoria applications for visas to emigrate to or visit Australia.

An embassy spokesman confirmed she had reported the approaches and that the Ambassador, Mr Bob Birch, had lodged an official protest with the South African Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday.

The police have confirmed

that the CID is investigating. On Saturday Miss Twine questioned for 90 minutes at Pretoria police headquarters.

She says she was not shown photographs to help her to identify the man who approached her, who gave his name as Nick Pieterse.

"I am prepared to go through all the security offices to identify Nick Pieterse," she said.

She said the police asked why she did not ask Pieterse for identification and why she was certain he was connected to a security or intelligence organization.

"I had no reason to doubt he was from security. He knew so much about me, about the lesbianism, about my girlfriend, Erika."

"How many people even knew I had started work at the Australian Embassy?"

Miss Twine added: "I am still scared... Not of him as a man, but of the power behind him."

South Africa's relations with Australia, which is attracting many emigrants, are strained over the Hawke Government's support for sanctions.

Pretoria sees this as a flagrant example of double standards, believing Australia's real interest is to capture Far Eastern coal and mineral export markets, particularly in Japan where Mr R F "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, had talks last week.

Schools in Soweto are closed

Johannesburg (Reuter) — The South African Government said yesterday it had closed 13 more black schools, 10 of them in Soweto, because of student boycotts and classroom disruption, after 20 were shut last week.

A statement from Mr Braam Fourie, Director-General of the Department of Education and Training, said effective education had become impossible and put the blame on pupils and local communities, charging that they had squandered and neglected the opportunity to receive an education.

The black National Education Crisis Centre has appealed to Pretoria to stop closures. It said attendance will rise when troops are withdrawn from schools and pupils detained under the emergency released.

● Mine defused: A Soviet limpet mine was found and defused on Saturday at a shopping complex in an affluent white suburb near Pretoria (AFP reports).

The device was discovered in a men's lavatory at the Verwoerdburg Mall shopping centre and rendered harmless by police explosives experts. Hundreds of people were evacuated from the complex.

Doubt cast on Ershad poll date

From Ahmed Fazl
Dhaka

The prospect of a presidential poll in Bangladesh on October 15 has been thrown into doubt by a senior minister, who said at the weekend that the poll could be delayed, and major opposition parties who declared a countrywide general strike for voting day.

President Ershad's civilian Prime Minister, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, said the poll could be postponed to encourage two opposition alliances to end their boycott.

"I can tell you the polls will not be held on October 15 because the day marks the first anniversary of a national tragedy," Mr Chowdhury said. Thirty-nine students were killed when the roof of a Dhaka University dormitory caved in on October 15 last year.

● Top adviser named: President Ershad yesterday named a former Air Force chief, Air Vice-Marshal Abdul Karim Khandker, once High Commissioner to Australia and India, as his top adviser in a move seen as an attempt to develop a liaison between politicians and the military now that President Ershad is preparing for a civilian role after the election.

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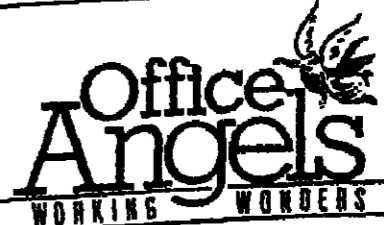
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Philippines leader hopes to capitalize on peace talks with rebels

Mrs Aquino to seek US aid in debt crisis

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino flies to the United States today for an eight-day visit to shore up US political and financial support for her efforts to revive the economy and settle a communist insurgency that has Washington worried.

With fresh pledges of loyalty from the military High Command and from Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, her outspoken Minister of Defence, Mrs

President Aquino and her 11-member party will travel on a regular Philippine Airlines flight to the US (Keith Dalton writes). The deposed Ferdinand Marcos chartered two jumbo jets for 700 on his 1982 US trip. Mrs Aquino will take only two suitcases, according to the presidential palace. Mrs Marcos took 300.

Aquino has scoffed at rumours of a coup in her absence.

Her visit, almost four years to the day when the ousted ruler Ferdinand Marcos began his second and last US trip, will capitalize unashamedly on her popularity in the West after the "people's power"

revolt almost seven months ago which catapulted her to power and sent Mr Marcos into exile in Hawaii.

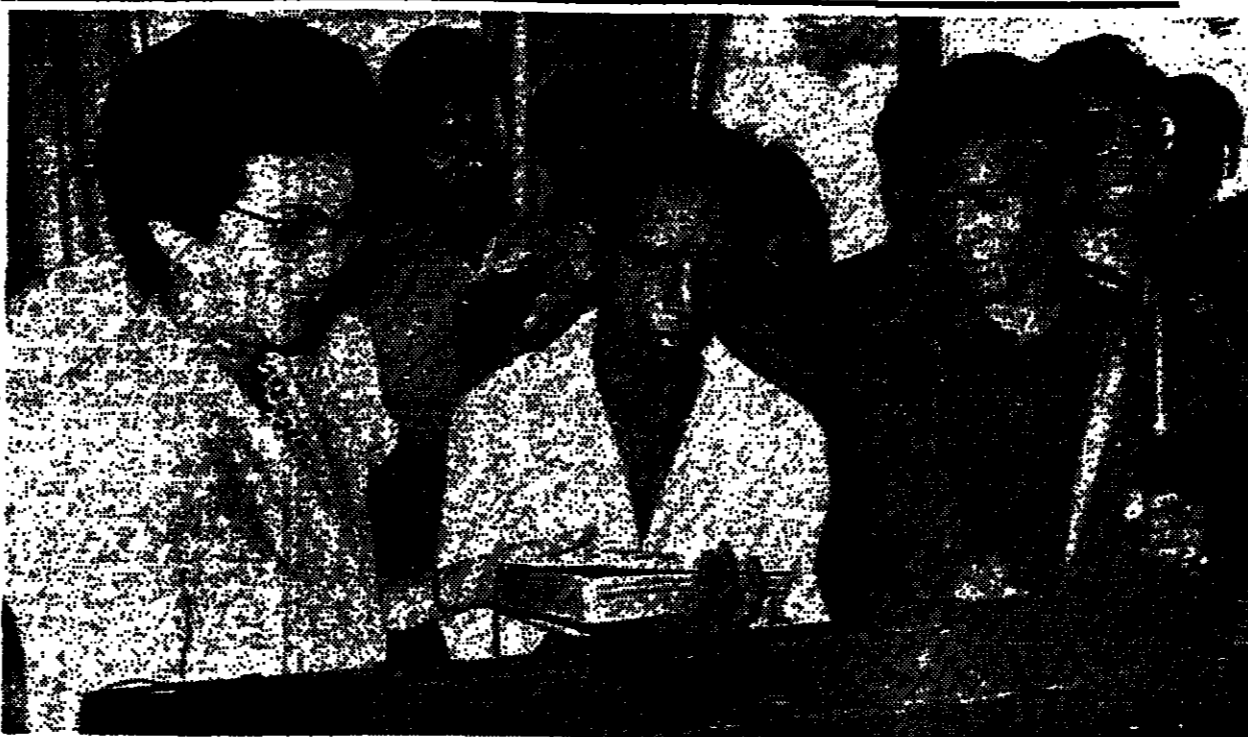
"We want to tap this reservoir of good will in the Reagan Administration towards our Government," said the presidential spokesman, Mr Rene Saguisag. "We want to see (Mr Reagan) put money where his mouth is."

Mrs Aquino's four-city trip is expected to speed up congressional approval of an expanded aid package to the Philippines, fighting its worst economic crisis since winning independence from the United States in 1946.

Her most crucial talks could be with the country's creditor banks and aid agencies as she seeks easier repayment terms for the Philippines' crippling \$26 billion (£17.6 billion) foreign debt.

Mrs Aquino said she hoped to establish a "beautiful friendship" with Mr Reagan during their meeting on Wednesday.

But she would not allow him to dictate how she should tackle the 17-year communist insurgency, after criticism from the Reagan Administra-



President Aquino handing a Bible and rosary to a tribal leader and receiving a spear and shield in return at the signing of a ceasefire agreement with northern Philippine rebels led by a former priest, Father Conrado Balweg, right.

tion that she was too soft on communism.

While peace talks with the communists have stalled after two formal meetings in the past five weeks, Mrs Aquino will be able to make political capital out of a ceasefire agreement signed at the weekend with the renegade Roman Catholic priest, Father Conrado Balweg, whose 300-member guerrilla army is fighting for greater autonomy for tribal groups in the northern Philippines.

Mrs Aquino also succeeded, one week earlier, in convincing the Muslim rebel leader, Mr Nur Misuari, to begin peace talks towards ending the 14-year Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Both peace initiatives have boosted her support within the armed forces' High Command and won an important pledge of loyalty last Tuesday from the country's 69 generals.

The next day Mrs Aquino doubled to 12 the membership of the National Security

Council which, if necessary, can be convened in her absence to oversee security problems.

But Mr Enrile, himself a presidential aspirant, sees no immediate threat to the seven-month Government.

"As far as I know, there is no danger in the country during President Aquino's absence, especially to her presidency," he told a civic meeting on Saturday.

● CAGAYAN DE ORO: The remains of 63 people believed

to have been killed by communist insurgents have been exhumed from 34 graves in the southern Philippines in rebel-controlled areas, according to military reports (AFP reports).

Sworn statements by former members of the communist-led New People's Army who had escaped said they had participated in the torture and execution of comrades suspected of being government agents, an army spokesman said.

Aid for Sandinistas

China offers \$20m loan to Nicaragua

Peking (Reuters) — President Ortega of Nicaragua said yesterday that China had offered his country \$20 million (£13.3 million) in soft loans for foodstuffs and other items.

He declined to say if military equipment was included in the deal.

East European sources said later that they thought it unlikely that Peking would have offered any military aid directly to the Sandinista Government.

President Ortega said after a meeting with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, that he was delighted with China's expression of support for Nicaragua in its confrontation with the United States.

"We have signed an economic agreement that is broad-based and provides for more than \$20 million in assistance so that Nicaragua will have more resources to alleviate the situation made grave by the aggression of the United States," he said.

Asked for details of China's \$20 million assistance package, President Ortega said it

was in the form of a loan with very preferential terms for the purchase of items including foodstuffs and tools. He declined to elaborate further.

President Ortega arrived last Thursday for his first visit to China since Nicaragua switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Peking last year.

Earlier this year, Peking gave the left-wing Nicaraguan Government \$1 million in food and clothing aid.

President Ortega said: "The position of the Chinese leaders has been made very clear, that they reject completely the armed American aggression against Nicaragua."

The United States is supporting Contra rebels in their efforts to overthrow the Sandinista Government in Managua.

President Ortega said there were some foreign policy differences between himself and China's leaders, and indicated that the Cambodian conflict was one of these. China strongly opposes Vietnam's military role in Cambodia.

Private trade declines

Peking (Reuters) — The number of privately run shops in China has dropped for the first time since they were allowed to resume business in 1979, in what diplomats see as a surprising reversal with serious political implications.

The latest edition of the official *Chinese Commerce* newspaper said the number of private shops throughout the country fell to about 8.7 million at the end of June, 190,000 less than the year before.

Headache for Vienna coalition

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Austria's Socialist-Freedom Party coalition Government was thrown into confusion yesterday by the sudden election of Herr Jörg Haider, an extreme right-wing politician, as leader of the Freedom Party.

Herr Haider, who has been hailed in some quarters in Austria as "Hitler's adopted son" because of his German nationalist views, caused a furore two years ago by defending the Austrian Defence Minister's decision to greet a convicted Nazi war criminal on his repatriation to Austria.

A gifted orator, based until now in his party's stronghold of Carinthia, a notoriously pan-German part of the country, Herr Haider has presented an image of energy and decisiveness unusual in contemporary Austrian politics.

One of the wealthiest men in Austria, Herr Haider's formidable oratory and charisma are believed by the Freedom Party to be its only chance of holding on to power at next spring's general election.

His emergence as the party leader over the weekend provoked emotional scenes at the party congress in Innsbruck. One elder of the party even suffered a heart attack as Herr Norbert Steger, the outgoing leader, was booed and hissed by Haider supporters, who have always portrayed Herr Steger as a buffoon.

However, several moderate members of the Freedom Party voiced their fears that Herr Haider's election will provoke the Socialists into a general election this autumn in an attempt to capitalize on the Freedom Party's confusion.

Inquiry into NSW justice

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

A commission of inquiry is to investigate the administration of justice in New South Wales and will initially examine allegations that a district court judge exercised selective leniency in dealing with defendants represented by one solicitor.

Judge John Foord said he would stand down from the bench while the investigation was carried out — the third time in two years that he has done so for inquiries to be carried out, the last when he was charged and acquitted last year of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The commission, to be chaired by Sir Laurence Street, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, will also lay down sentencing guidelines and how magistrates and judges could be removed.

A report by a group of academics, who had examined cases over two years involving serious drug offenders, concluded New South Wales justice was "neither systematic nor just".

In one instance, they cited "statistical anomalies" associated with a combination of one particular judge, code-named J, and a solicitor named S, which could not be attributed to a general leniency by the judge or special skills of the solicitor.

Judge Foord identified himself as Judge J, but before standing down denied any wrong-doing on his part.

The inquiry process will test the ability of the state administration under Mr Barrie Unsworth, the new Premier, to lay the bogey of corruption which plagued the government of his predecessor, Mr Neville Wran.

Family planning

Scientist claims 100% reliable method

From A Correspondent, Paris

An Australian medical scientist claims to have devised a 100 per cent certain method of family planning which uses no drugs or appliances.

Professor James Browne of Melbourne, who has won international prizes for his work on hormones and cancer, said yesterday he had devised a simple hormone test which would pinpoint exactly the few fertile days in a woman's monthly cycle to be avoided by a couple not wanting a child and, for those wanting one, the single day when the chance of a woman conceiving rose to a peak of 75 per cent.

Carrying out the test was as easy and cheap as making a cup of tea, he said. The test on a woman's urine, which could be done in Third World villages, was done automatically by a meter which now costs \$Aus1.50 (£60) each, but the price would drop dramatically with mass production. The reagents needed cost 4p a tube, mainly for the glass, but this would fall to less than 1p.

Professor Brown, formerly with the MRC Endocrinology Unit, Edinburgh, now the Reproductive Biology Unit, a world leader in contraception research, said his was not a contraceptive. A couple not wanting a child would abstain from intercourse, but not necessarily for the whole seven days needed for absolute confidence. For many couples four to five days would be adequate. For others, its main use would be as an indication of the "fertile night" rather than the "safe period".

A Protestant, Professor Brown announced his achievement at the predominantly Roman Catholic International Congress of the Family in Paris, held under the slogan "Life Promotes Life".

Professor Brown said he had already been approached by pharmaceutical companies interested in his work. "No medical liability insurance is needed," he said.

Uganda rebels cut road

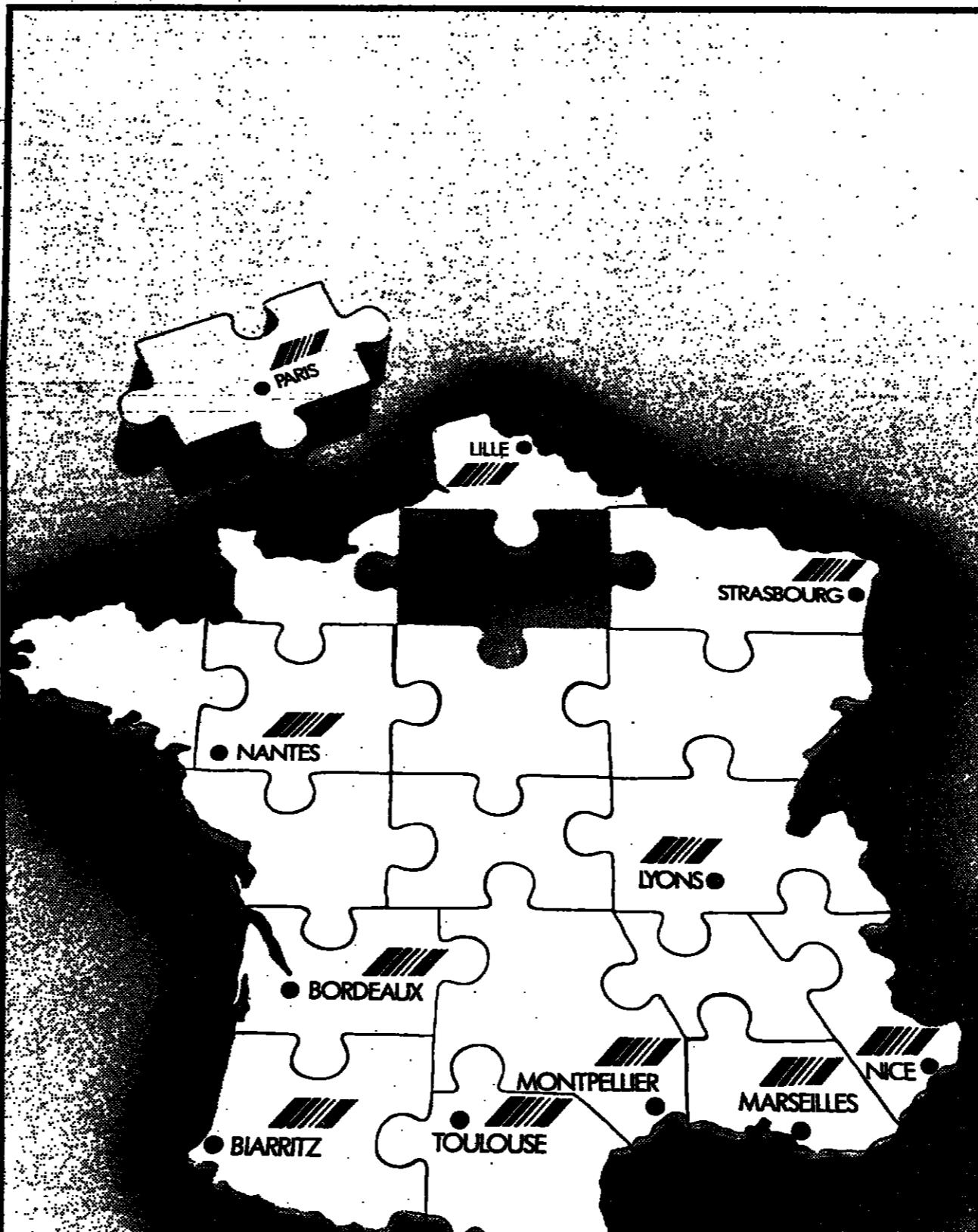
Nairobi — Rebels have cut the main road north from Kampala and attacked government troops in several parts of northern Uganda (Charles Harrison writes).

Fighting continues in several areas, but there have been no more large-scale clashes such as the attack on Gulu, the

main town in northern Uganda, last month.

President Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army says it is in control and describes the attacks as skirmishes, but other reports say the rebels, members of the Army ousted in January, hold areas near the Sudan border.

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Determined smiles, committed people: the Reverend Paul Booth, a firm supporter of the campaign, with the ladies' blockade at Bradwell-on-Sea

Not in our back yard

The epistle was 1 Timothy 2, 1-7 on the Sunday before a protest blocked access to the proposed site for a nuclear waste dump just outside Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex. For the village rector, the lesson couldn't have been more apposite. It was about praying for people in authority.

There were only about 20 in the congregation of the 7th century St Peter's church, but the Rev Paul Booth's message was for the whole parish (800, if you included neighbouring St Lawrence). He announced that he was totally in support of the protest. He feared that the community was being torn apart, and announced that he would be at the road block to keep out the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (Nirex) men testing the site, one of four which it is considering.

The staunchly Conservative, mildly escapist backwater of Bradwell may not be a strong church-going community but Mr Booth has become a figure-head in its fight against Nirex. He puts it down to a subconscious feeling that the church should have some say. "There is talk about life, death and creation, and the instinct when under threat is to turn to religion on such fundamental matters."

Mr Booth was co-opted on to the committee because the village wanted him there. To some he is the voice of respectability. With the church behind the protesters, they feel that they cannot be accused of anarchism.

"I'm not a Luddite," he says. "I accept nuclear power as a fact of life. It's the Genesis myth come true and there's no way back into the Garden of Eden. But I don't believe anyone has the right to threaten a community with a quantity as unknown as nuclear waste."

"What is very sad is that the people here no longer trust authority. The credibility gap is as wide as the gap between the sun and the moon. We've got housewives who once thought all protesters were cranks carrying banners, wearing badges, sitting in the road and going to conferences to learn about protesting."

The once-peaceful village of Bradwell in Essex is now buzzing with the fever of protest against nuclear dumping. Barbara Toner reports

Bradwell first heard on February 25 the news that it had been singled out by Nirex without consultation, without warning and even though it met none of the criteria which make sites suitable for the burial of low-level waste in shallow trenches.

"All I can imagine is that they didn't know whom they thought they were dealing with," Mandy Pipe, who is leading the campaign with her husband Les, says. "On paper it must have looked like we were just a lot of ill-educated dopes in an outpost. They made a misjudgement."

The misjudgement was to assume that mild-mannered, country-living Conservative voters wouldn't battle against the establishment. But fight they have. There has been a power station at Bradwell for 25 years which they have all been prepared to live with. But the village is now a highly politicized campaign centre.

Les Pipe is chairman of the Bradwell Action Group, largely because he went to the first meeting armed with information. His reaction had been to

The mothers only gave first names to avoid any court injunctions

ring everyone who might know more: Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, ITV. Curiously, their MP, the Chief Whip John Wakeham, was someone they did not consider. As events turned out, they did not regret this oversight.

The mothers on the road blockade have become disenchanted with the establishment they always valued and have become wily in the rules of effective protesting. They only gave their first names so as to avoid being targets for any court injunctions which

Nirex might issue for obstruction. They remember with disappointment the occasion when they succeeded in getting John Wakeham to address a meeting.

"He didn't know what we were worried about," Jackie, a mother pushing her toddler in his pram, says. "He said we might as well let them do the drilling to test the site because they would only discover it wasn't suitable. But he wasn't against dumping. He was following the party line."

The villagers weren't impressed by the arguments put forward by Tom McInerney, Nirex managing director. "We learned that that Nirex-gave us our best argument," Jean says. "They contradicted themselves, they changed the criteria for sites, they admitted they didn't know what the long-term effects might be."

Within weeks of their first meeting, the committee had circulated leaflets around neighbouring villages and had badges, stickers and T-shirts made. "I remember saying, 'My kids aren't going around in those T-shirts,'" Anne says. "But now I never go anywhere without my badge."

They petitioned in a different local town every Saturday, and in mid-April a coachload presented 17,000 signatures to 10 Downing Street. They threw themselves into fund-raising and have made £4,000 from membership subscriptions, coffee mornings and a barn dance. Jean's husband, who before had run the London Marathon for the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research, ran this year for the action group.

Twelve of them went by minibus to a conference run by Bedfordshire County Council about radioactive waste. "It was the first time I'd ever seen my husband sit through a lecture and listen," Anne remembers. In June it was decided that the small

action groups which had sprung up should co-ordinate to become Essex Against Nuclear Dumping. Working groups to deal with publicity, communications, the law and planning, information gathering, events and stunts were formed.

Tom is in charge of stunts. He will decide what's to be done when the blockade is broken. "It will all be peaceful," he says. "But the campaign won't end there, it will only be starting. No one here wants to be doing this. We'd all much rather be

Nirex admitted to not knowing what the long term effects might be

getting on with our normal lives." Mandy Pipe observes that Bradwell was dying 10 years ago. "A lot of people have moved here looking for a safe and peaceful place to raise their children and they've brought life back to the village. Now, I think a lot would like to move away, but they wouldn't leave a sinking ship."

At that first meeting, Mr Booth remembers being impressed by the sanity of Les Pipe, who had said, "If this divides our village, it will be worse than radioactive waste". He was referring to a potential conflict between those in the village and those who work at the power station. But that hasn't arisen.

Mr Booth's dread now is that the fear and the anger which has mushroomed as the village has become better-informed will break up the community. Like many of his parishioners, he is a comparatively new arrival, drawn to the countryside from inner-city strife in Manchester, after the death of his wife six years ago.

Yesterday's gospel was about Dives and Lazarus, or concern for your neighbour. "You can't help relating it to everyday life," Mr Booth remarks. "Anyone who says politics and religion aren't mixed has never read the Bible."

Roots on the street, branches everywhere

It is 30 years since Professor Alan Ross coined the memorable distinction between U and non-U in his learned paper on the "linguistic demarcation of the upper-class". He concluded his deft plotting of England's sociolinguistic contours with words that which will resound unchallenged through the suffocating labyrinth of class-consciousness: "Among European languages, English is surely the most suited to the study of linguistic class-distinctions."

A generation of social change has passed since Ross opened his debate, yet very little has changed. "Young fogeys" pretend to be John Esjerman; *Private Eye* regularly parodies the BBC's parliamentary correspondent, a harsh-vowelled Ulsterman; public schoolboys try to speak cockney; we have a Prime Minister who took elocution lessons.

None of this fascination — some would say obsession — with the social and cultural nuances of the English language is particularly new. It is almost as old as the language itself.

The United Kingdom has more variety of English than anywhere else in the world. Across Australia, workers and bosses alike speak with essentially the same accent. In the United States, the East Coast reflects some of the variety of its English parent but the speech of middle America is remarkably unvariegated.

Yet here in the home of the language — a country the size of New York State — the voice of English is a constantly-evolving cacophony of region, class and education. In George Bernard Shaw's famous dictum: "It is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him."

Even if it were possible to draw a regional "dialect map" of the British Isles, mapmakers could never express the contour lines of class and speech, buried deep in the past. In Shakespeare's time an observant contemporary was noting a difference between the speech of "gentlemen" and "the common people": "There be gentlemen and others that speake, but specially write, as good Southerne as we of Middlesex or Surrey do, but not the common people of every shire, to whom the gentlemen, and also their learned clerkes, do for the most part condescend."

For centuries the county aristocracy made almost no effort to imitate the English of the capital. As recently as the mid-19th century, Sir Robert Peel, the Tory party leader, never disguised his Midlands speech, while Lord Stanley, Disraeli's patron, spoke "a sort of Lancashire patois".

By the last decades of the century all had changed. Thomas Hardy, the Wessex

The sun never sets on the English language; a billion people speak it and, as this first of three articles shows, its variety is endless



boy made good, identified the change in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: "Mrs Durbeyfield habitually spoke the dialect; her daughter, who had passed the Sixth Standard in the National School under a London-trained mistress, spoke two languages: the dialect at home, more or less, ordinary English abroad and to persons of quality". At the same time, standard English pronunciation had found its definitive label. A. J. Ellis coined the phrase Received Pronunciation, or RP, in his pioneering classic *On English Pronunciation* in 1869. The timing was apt because it was the Victorian public schools that were creating a new class of RP speakers.

The public schools took boys with different backgrounds from all over the country and, mixing them together, often in isolated country towns like Rugby or Uppingham, created a national, essentially middle-class accent.

It became the voice of the officer, administrative and consular class throughout the Empire — the voice of authority. This identification of RP with power, education and success became fully institutionalized after the First World War. Great War, with the establishment of the BBC, whose founders were well aware that the age of broadcast sound was a milestone.

John Reith, the first director-general of the BBC, aimed to achieve a standard of English, written and spoken, which would be "the very best thing we could do". An advisory committee on spoken English was set up, chaired by the peremptory figure of George Bernard Shaw, whose first task was the question of pronunciation.

The first BBC executives had a certain idealism. There was the hope that a standardized English speech would be an agent for social improve-

ment. In this climate, working-class voices were confined to comedy programmes.

It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that rapid social change was reflected in a widening of the accent spectrum on radio and television.

Actors like Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Frank Finlay, having learnt to lose their flat northern accents at RADA, now found their native speech in vogue.

Despite the BBC, then, "the right way" of speaking did not spread inexorably through society. It is, in fact, a myth that regional varieties of English are being flattened by the standardizing pressures of broadcasting. RP (or BBC English) has never been spoken by more than a tiny minority of the population, between 3 and 5 per cent.

Yet 1986 research shows that RP is still the most highly-favoured accent of English today. In experiments in which the speakers were identified only by voice, RP speakers tend to be credited with qualities such as honesty, intelligence, ambition, even good looks.

Out of the broadcasting limelight, there are still many social and cultural pressures against sounding too "posh". Cricketer David Gower is interesting because he comes from a middle-class background, went to an English public school — King's, Canterbury. It can be assumed that he was brought up to speak RP. Yet among his non-RP-speaking team-mates, he adopts a protective vernacular. Interviewed on television, he can be heard to shift quite rapidly from the accent of the changing-room to the accent of the BBC.

Like all forms of English in Britain, RP is in a constant state of evolution. Compare a newsreel from 1936 with a television broadcast from 1966 or 1986 and you will find three quite distinct accents in play. But the motor of this evolution does not lie with the familiar arbiters of English — the BBC, the professors of linguistics, the writers of dictionaries. All the evidence suggests that language change comes from the streets.

Robert McCrum
The Story of English, by Robert McCrum, William Cran and Robert MacNeil, is published on Thursday by BBC/Faber at £15. The television series on which the book is based starts on September 22 (BBC 2, 8.05)

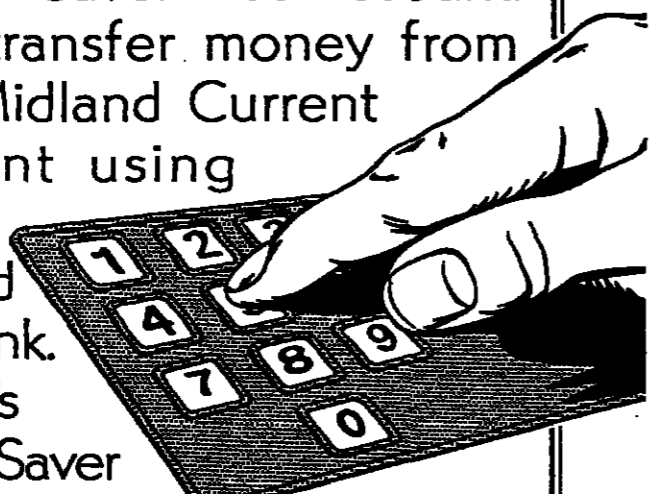
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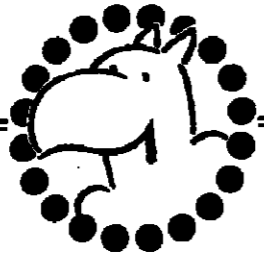
Capital talk: The making of London's language

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The older they are the harder they fall

Joe Bugner follows a distressing boxing tradition today with his comeback fight

There is a famous photograph, taken in 1951, which all boxing fans would prefer not to have seen and all boxers planning a comeback should be shown. One man is sprawled in agony against the lower ropes of the ring, clearly unable to rise, while his opponent turns away in victory.

It is one of the saddest photos in sporting history. The man who has just been knocked out, helpless and bewildered, is Joe Louis, to some the supreme heavyweight fighter of the century. Forced by tax debts to return to the ring, this once sleek and stylish boxer had become a cumbersome and overweight mediocrity.

Thousands of embarrassed spectators left the arena before Rocky Marciano administered the coup de grace that evening. Louis was 37 years old, just a year older than Britain's former European and Commonwealth heavyweight champion Joe Bugner, who attempts his own return in Sydney today.

"They never come back," is one of the oldest and wisest of boxing adages. "They never learn" could be another. Sugar Ray Leonard has also announced a return early next year to the sport he once graced so magnificently. Unlike Bugner, who has had the sense to start with the American James Tillis, a relatively harmless opponent, Leonard will be up against world middleweight champion Marvin Hagler, one of the most dangerous fighters around.

Leonard at 30 has already retired twice, the first time in 1982 after an operation for a



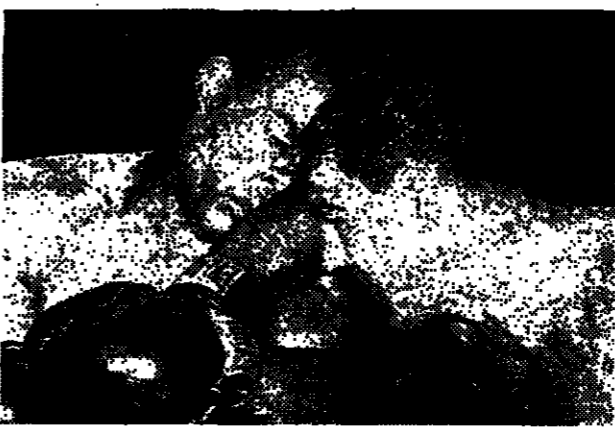
detached retina. Two years later, he won his first comeback unimpressively and immediately quit again, saying "I'm relieved it's over. I had to prove something to myself and I found that it just wasn't there, mentally."

Mohammed Ali made several returns to boxing. His first was to regain the title scandalously stripped from him for his refusal to be drafted into the army. The others were

Big money the draw, pride the spur

motivated by a combination of the need for money (few hangers-on are as rapacious as those who surround boxing champions) and an obsession to keep proving that he was still "the greatest". Ali's last title fight, against Larry Holmes at the age of 38, revealed a shambling, slow, corpulent figure, unable to evade even the most cumbersome punches from his opponent.

John Morris, general secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, emphasises that age is not the only



fall of hopes in Sydney, Louis on the ropes against Marciano

There remains pride. People are beginning to forget Leonard and to talk about Hagler as the greatest fighter of recent times. And Leonard was named after Sugar Ray Robinson, world champion at both welterweight and middleweight. Leonard dominated the welter and light-middleweights of his time. What greater climax to his career than to emulate his idol at

criticism when deciding whether to allow a boxer to return to the ring. "If Bugner came before us now — which he has not because the fight is in Australia — we would look into his general condition, his state of fitness, his record in his last few fights, and he would go through the most rigorous medical examination. What's just as relevant as age is continuity of training."

The records are full of champions. "Ageless" Archie Moore and Sugar Ray Robinson among them, who fought well into their forties. But boxers who retire seldom keep in training or shape, and regaining full competitive fitness, speed, and strength becomes virtually impossible. Snap and timing are the first to go. The medical edge diminishes, and motivation is hard to recapture.

Why then does Leonard, an intelligent, articulate man who knows all this from first-hand experience, subject himself to another bout of comebackitis? The money he will be getting is huge — certainly not less than \$5 million for the Hagler fight — but Leonard is a very rich man. During his career he earned around \$30 million, more than any non-heavyweight boxer ever.

middleweight and then retire again?

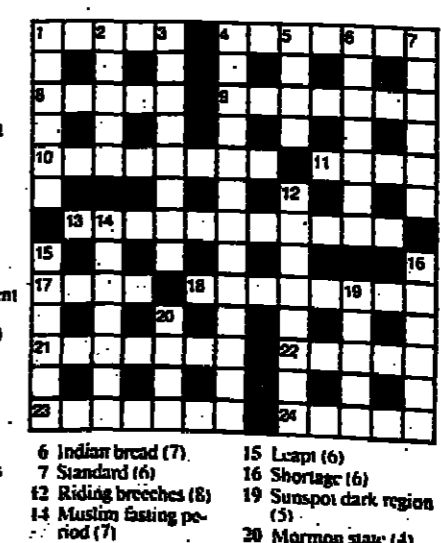
Bugner faces no such dreams of immortality. At best a pedestrian fighter, he twice went the full distance with Ali before losing on points, but could also perform appallingly against commonplace opposition. He says he is returning "because there's just a chance I can still be heavyweight champion of the world... of course I realise how old I am. But after that fiasco between Frank Bruno and Witherspoon I just had to give it another go."

Perhaps Leonard and Bugner will achieve their objective. Every now and again, boxers do make successful comebacks. Sugar Ray Robinson was one. But the odds, and nature, are against them. It was Robinson himself who remarked: "You always say 'I'll quit when I start to slide', and then one morning you wake up and you realise you've done slid."

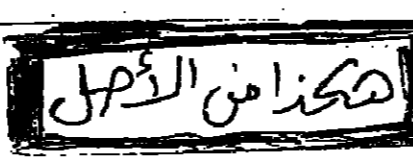
Marcel Berliens
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4 Otalgia (7)
8 Kingdom (5)
9 Solicit votes (7)
10 Dutch potato spirit (5)
11 Sharp feeling (4),
13 Boasting (11)
17 Ceremonial splendour (4)
18 Desavour (8)
21 Books checker (7)
22 Dark brown pigment (5)
23 Checked out (7)
24 Snow away (5)
- DOWN
1 Gloomy (6)
2 Life end (5)
3 Military operations (8)
4 Brain X-ray (13)
5 Ladder step (4)



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7 Standard (6)
8 Riding breeches (8)
12 Muslim fasting period (7)
15 Leap (6)
16 Shortage (6)
19 Sunspot dark region (3)
20 Marmon statue (4)



MONDAY PAGE

Mothers who suffer a secret madness

A kind of post-natal insanity afflicts some women. When Alexandra Artley suffered, she found the problem had a long history

One of the strangest things about motherhood is the fact that being mad on and off seems to be almost normal. But people do not talk about it. Women feel that by discussing their symptoms they are being disloyal to themselves and their families.

Perhaps because of that, when I went rather dotty after the birth of both our daughters, Mum was literally the word. I was, for certain periods between February and July of this year, so out of it that I did not realise there was anything wrong with me.

The dramatic world of puerperal insanity is extremely fashionable at the moment. In Cambridge University library there lies a new and scarcely fingered PhD thesis on it, starring the Second Empire alienist, L.V. Marcé. In Nottingham a few days ago the Marcé Society, formed in 1980, held its third international conference, and Marcé suddenly means 'Sometimes Mothers Go Mad'.

Louis Victor Marcé (1828-63) was a sensitive and acutely observant doctor. For centuries, varying degrees of mental disturbance associated with child-bearing had been noted, but Marcé was the first to give them an interesting shape. He recognized, in the unfortunate women he studied, "the simultaneous march of psychiatric symptoms and physical changes." As hormones had not yet been discovered, he described the connection between brain and uterus as *sympathie morbide*.

Through the research society

which bears his name, Marcé is likely to do for mothers in the 1990s what Leboyer, Odent and the National Childbirth Trust did for hospital births in the Eighties. But whereas they were concerned with the physical process and emotional support of childbirth, the Marcé Society hopes to make the prevention and proper treatment of post-natal mental disorders an actuality.

Our second daughter was born in February. She was 9lb 6oz and I felt very proud of her. After a few hours, though, I recognized a strange, painfully restless energy that I had also experienced several days after the birth of my first child. I began going backwards and forwards to the foyer of the ward for no real reason — just for the exhilaration of moving. This relentless energy went on and on so that I did not sleep at all for two months.

In between feeds in the middle of the night, I wrote 20,000 words of a book. By day I supervised decorators, directed a team of carpenters building a library, I penned startling directives to the management of the company I worked for, entertained visitors and generally rushed about. I was both lucid and confused.

Running through all this were periods of feeling extremely feeble in the head. Writing my name on a postcard was a triumph of will. Later, I thought that by making me slow-witted, perhaps Nature was keeping me totally responsive to the new baby.

In April the dreadful crashes started. Down I went, to a place where I could only move slowly, as if under water. Everything was

observed by a grey-green veil of dots.

Late one April afternoon, I stood washing up at the kitchen sink. The water was very hot. The next thing I remember is that the water was very cold and it was dark outside. I wept over everything (most embarrassing). I was glad we lived near King's Cross station because there are a lot of trains there and I would walk under one (two women recently killed themselves when in this condition). But I could not bear the idea of leaving my husband and children behind.

I looked at my family in considerable despair. I knew I loved them, but I had no perception of distance or speed. I almost ran the pram into passing cars several times. Like the lengthening of summer evenings, the periods of being myself returned. From the high ground of September I now look back on these things with astonishment and horror.

Bloomsbury, where I live, offers an excellent health-care service for mothers and children, but I did not seek professional help. I felt I was "naturally" ill and that drugs might transform me into someone else entirely. I also thought that if I took drugs I might not be responsible enough to look after the children. If I took them, how would I know when I was better?

In the very serious cases dealt with, Marcé recognized a danger signal that, in a minor form, I recognized in myself — the restless, painful energy. After that, he went on to describe, in case after case, manic elation, melancholia, intellectual enfeeblement, hallucinations, confusion and extraordinary changeability.

The "kaleidoscopic" nature of post-natal mental disturbance was noted by another medical writer later in the 19th century: "We cannot classify them with any



Paula Younes

degree of precision into mania, depression, melancholia and dementia. We shall note typical cases of each of these varieties, but I must premise by saying that it is common for one to pass through all these forms."

It has been estimated that post-natal mental disturbance affects 10 to 20 per cent of mothers, with severe puerperal psychosis occurring at a rate of one or two per thousand deliveries. But Dr Margaret Oates, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at the Mappery Hospital, Nottingham, who runs a special service for mentally ill mothers, puts the figure much higher than this.

"Very severe mental illness involves hallucinations; delusions and the mother being out of touch with reality," she says. "We already know that four per thousand live births are referred to the psychiatric services, and there is a strong suspicion that a better figure is the eight or nine per thousand known to psychiatrists. That could be doubled again if you include the women who go to their

GP's but who are not referred. Then there are large numbers of mothers with severe depressive illness who are supported through it by their families or just hidden away, to recover by themselves."

If Marcé got the hormonal theory right in 1838, why are 10 to 20 per cent of the child-bearing population still being mentally incapacitated for months, often years, at a time? It seems that Marcé's sophisticated vision was rejected by early 20th-century "modern" psychiatry. After existing as a separate disease for centuries, "puerperal psychosis" was officially struck off the psychiatric register by Emil Kraepelin, Professor Clinical Psychiatry at Munich from 1903-22.

Kraepelin classified mental illness into a system which is still used today. As I understand it, he found that the whirlwind of post-natal madness did not fit any of the pigeon holes he had neatly constructed, so took the disease to pieces and filed bits of it away under non-puerperal disorders. ("See Schizophrenic disorder, see Brief reactive psychosis, see Major affective disorders, see Organic brain syndrome.") See anything, in fact, except that if your hormones are gravely unbalanced after the birth of a baby, you will almost certainly go bananas.

In this century, some leading physicians have supported Marcé's view, including James A. Hamilton, formerly Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford. His article, "The Identity of Postpartum Psychosis" in *Motherhood and Mental Illness* (Academic Press 1982), is a stunning account of the way an appalling disease was dismembered and largely ignored.

In Britain, the gynaecological endocrinologist, Dr Katharina Dalton is convinced that "post-natal depression" can be prevented with progesterone, which

has to be given during delivery. Progesterone is a natural hormone (artificial progesterones will not do) and cannot be patented by drug companies. Is that another reason why hormone replacement therapy has not been developed to the point where it is commonly available?

When a disease does not officially exist, whether mental or physical, it attracts little scientific research and therapeutic opportunities cannot be examined. That is what happened to puerperal psychosis and to her less lurid sister, severe post-natal depressive illness.

Now, six years after the foundation of the Marcé Society, Britain leads the world in this extremely complex and volatile area of medical research. In the words of Frank Margison, current secretary of the society and consultant psychotherapist at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, "This severe mental illness is becoming better understood, possibly preventable and certainly treatable."

Research carried out by Professor Robert Kendell at Edinburgh suggests a hormonal trigger. He calculated that whereas bereavement or marital separation produced the five-fold stress that could lead to mental illness, childbirth produced a 35-fold stress.

Four types of high-risk women are also emerging. There is the "highly-adaptive professional woman", the genetically disposed manic-depressive, the woman whose partner is not committed to her, and the emergency Caesarean case (this category may be expanded to include women with other forms of birth emergency such as haemorrhaging).

In the Seventies, great play was made of social factors in "post-natal depression". Domestic isola-

tion, for example, and the contempt which society has for the gentle, humble, messy process of motherhood. All this is quite true, but many mothers feel that hormonal disturbance triggers a mental state which then makes external problems impossible to cope with.

Another Eighties view is that many women with powerful maternal instincts (I am one of them) have been led to expect far too much from themselves. Having been wound up by the educational system and set down like automations on the career track, many professional women in their 30s are now discovering that Nature alters a woman's mind for motherhood in a way that totally conflicts with the mental resources she needs for work.

Memory is the classic example of this. When my memory was very bad — and I felt extremely vague after the birth of both my children — I still felt totally bonded to them, acutely sensitive to their every requirement. This is called "primary maternal preoccupation" and it can mean that when a mother is away from her children she spends her working day in a mist of grief, pain and disorientation.

I have a loving family, kind friends and two children born in quick succession. This time it has taken seven months (last time it was 18 months) for me to regain my usual state of mind. Objects are solid again and some are even brightly coloured. It is wonderful to be back because, as I always knew, birth is a victory and not a defeat.

Enquiries should be addressed to The Marcé Society, c/o The Secretary, Dr Frank Margison, Gaskell House, Department of Psychotherapy, Swinton Grove, Manchester M13.

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Growing up in Wonderland

When Dirty Harry met Ratgirl, the result was actors' empathy, true love — and now an unlikely hit movie



Eternal child: Sondra Locke collects children's books

The film *Ratboy* is a bitter-sweet fable about an appealing mutant who is dragged into the spotlight and finally escapes its glare in the most romantic fashion. Its director says: "A lot of things happened to me in my early career that affected me deeply and which subconsciously I must have put on-screen."

The director in question is Sondra Locke. In her mid-30s, she is very small indeed with perfect white skin, no make-up, albino eyes, lank blonde hair and the manners of a polite child. She wears pale colours, pale Victorian jewellery. She collects illustrations by Arthur Rackham, Maxfield Parrish and Edmund Dulac and children's books like the Beatrix Potter tale which features in her film.

This may be a time when, all over Hollywood, women are being allowed to direct pictures, but even so eyebrows have been raised that in Locke's case it seemed so easy for her to get more than £4 million from Warner Bros. to turn out a movie which is, to say the least, unusual.

However, it is no small coincidence that Clint Eastwood, actor-director and mayor of Carmel, has an office at Warner's and shares several homes with Locke. For some time, Hollywood had suspected Eastwood was sweet on his fragile-looking co-star. But he insisted he would never divorce his wife Maggie, and Sondra said nothing at all. Then suddenly there was a divorce, Maggie married Henry Weinberg, Liz Taylor's car-dealer friend, and Clint was stepping out with Sondra — or rather staying in with her.

The details of the private life are a tantalizing secret in a town that hates secrets. But *Ratboy*, rapturously received by the French Press at the Deauville festival last week,

gives a few clues, including a line about a gun: "It's empty, Dirty Harry..."

Yet the circumstances of Locke's liaison cannot always have been ideal. While Eastwood lives up in Northern California's Big Sur, her base has been an old-style Spanish house in the Los Angeles Hills, her favourite occupation the solitary one favoured by many a lonely woman: gardening. In L.A. where tropical flowers run riot, she perversely tries to nurture tulips.

"*Ratboy* in Wonderland" is how she remembers herself when she first arrived in Hollywood. Born in a small town in Tennessee, Locke won a talent contest at the age of 18, having "watched people to learn acting rather than take classes."

Her father was a contractor and none of the family understood her compulsion to watch movies at all times of the day and night on television. "I never felt I belonged where I was," she says. They were all surprised

when she was cast in Carson McCuller's *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter* — for which she received an Oscar nomination — in 1968.

When she first arrived in L.A. her feeling of alienation worsened. "I don't know how I survived. There were no interesting parts for young girls, it was not the youth-orientated market it is today. Also, this is a town which is very interested in plot, but not in character. I was interested in character, in strange quixotic emotions. I was no good at the publicity machine which is 80 per cent of the business."

"My arrival here was truly a fairy tale, and I believed that something fabulous would be created for me by magic. As an actress you are accustomed to thinking like this and to waiting to be chosen."

When Locke first met Clint Eastwood, he chose not to cast her in 1973's *Breezy* — an oversight which she says is still a bone of contention between them. Three years

later he made amends with a part in *The Outlaw Josey Wales* and these two outsiders immediately bonded.

Ratboy shares with many of Eastwood's own films a fascination for the drop-outs and freaks who abound in American life. "Ratboy is dragged in and wants out," Locke explains. "He knows what it is to be different, and the importance we place on material things."

She found the story in a pile given to her by her agent. "Clint was very encouraging. He thought I could do it because over the years he has allowed me to be part of his decision-making, from casting to editing."

His habit of allowing anyone on the set to voice their opinion had been a 10-year apprenticeship for Locke. More than that, in a business which has become decidedly conservative, his name has become a byword for risk-taking.

He showed up on the *Ratboy* set twice on the first day to make certain everything got off to a good start with his crew, and again when Locke was to show him the rough-cut. "It was terrifying," she says. "I don't suppose I have ever felt so vulnerable."

Where the baby machine was installed in the new Eastwood home in Mount Shasta on the Oregon border, Eastwood made a couple of suggestions and Locke readily agreed. Her eyes light up in a most old-fashioned way when she talks about him, his stamina as a film-maker, his taste and their favourite film — *Bronco Billy* — which they once took to the Deauville Festival together. On this occasion she went alone.

The French view that she has produced a brave movie has reinforced her determination to continue directing. "I don't see marriage and children in the cards any more," she says. "I think I chose this profession as a way to remain the eternal child."

Glenys Roberts

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Where sex has a long shelf life

After all I was saying last week about Ireland having decided to turn its back on the nastier aspects of the future such as total technology, imagine my surprise when I went into the local electrical supplier to buy a light bulb and there, where the boxes of fuses used to be, was a shelf of video cassettes, *Last Tango in Paris* prominently to the fore.

It seems that while there is legislation to stop people getting divorced or reading saucy books, there is nothing that can be done about rude videos because at the time the laws on decency were passed videos hadn't been invented yet. If people get to hear about this, it bodes ill for the peace and tranquillity of this land of saints and scholars.

I can see package tour operators leaping on to the bandwagon, with offers of video-viewing holidays in darkened Irish hotel rooms.



PENNY PERRICK

These would attract a different type of tourist to the ones we have now: the German students cheerfully setting up their tents in the pouring rain; the ancient English couples in shrunken Irish sweaters and

sensible shoes striding across the bogs; the families from Dublin with cars full of reared children, whose idea of heaven is a bag of crisps and a lemonade before breakfast.

Strangely enough, I haven't heard any public denunciation of the necked distribution of video cassettes. For that matter, I haven't met anyone in the area who seems to have watched one, either.

What is bothering the authorities at the moment is the lark behaviour of Irish holiday-makers in the Canaries, where they patronize establishments called the Shillelath Bar and play suggestive games such as *Pass the Cucumber*. The female tourists also tend to fall hook, line and sinker for any loitering Spaniard.

"Why do you think that is?" the broadcaster Gay Byrne asked a reporter who had just returned from observing their

shenanigans. The reporter, a woman, sighed. "Because they're so lovely," she said.

My native priggishness melts away entirely at the thought of Charles Stewart Parnell, the most dashing and romantic of politicians, whose home in County Wicklow has just been officially opened as a museum.

Parnell was neurotically superstitious and it has been suggested that had he only known that Kitty O'Shea was the 13th child to be born in her family, he would have shunned her like the plague and Irish history would have taken a different turn.

Since he didn't, Parnell and Kitty remain the epitome of star-crossed lovers. There is even a Kitty O'Shea pub in Paris which is regarded as tres irlandais, although the lady herself, as everyone who knows her love story is aware, was English.

TALKBACK

From Dr de Wei Vorster, Santa Maria, South Brent, Devon

The Dublin experience (Wednesday Page, Sep 3) reveals how important close mother/baby post-birth contact is, although it is obviously only a part of the bonding process as discussed in the article by Liz Hodgkinson.

The baby is concerned, it appears important that there be "holding" by a care-taking adult, if not the

mother, for the first half hour or so after the birth, the first hour exhibiting special "awake patterns" in the EEG (electroencephalogram) record of the baby.

Our research, at the maternity department of Plymouth hospital, involving many hundreds of mother/baby couples, supports earlier animal stud-

ies, and studies pursued on smaller numbers of babies, indicating the value of immediate mother or parent baby contact in matters such as sleep and feeding, as well as problems in mother/baby interaction at a later stage.

In our study, post-birth holding by father was nearly as valuable as holding by

mother (for twenty minutes or more); skin contact was not essential for the positive effects of proximity.

It appears that unfortunate separation — for example, Caesarian Section under general anaesthetic — may be compensated for by later holding.

The important adult is there and "available", which allows more readily for a mutually satisfying interactive rhythm to develop.

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Boots

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THE TIMES DIARY

Défense de dormir

Even for that most pro-European of political parties, the SDP, there are limits to the entente cordiale. Visitors to a fringe meeting on defence and disarmament on the eve of the SDP conference in Harrogate were promised contributions from David Owen and a prominent French politician, Jean-Francois Marie. What they weren't told was that M Marie would be speaking in French. Although the interpreter battled valiantly through the 35-minute monologue one delegate nodded off and several others decided to say a premature au revoir. At least the event provided some enlightenment for Richard Ryder, Tory MP for Mid Norfolk, who is attending the conference for the BBC, and whom I overheard repeating with evident irony that celebrated remark of Julian Critchley's about the SDP being "an exam-taking party." Perhaps they had better go back to school.

SDP traditions, of necessity, are somewhat new, but it's good to see it living up to them. Shirley Williams' car broke down yesterday outside the Old Swan Hotel, making her late for church.

Over the water

More unhappiness among Westminster ratepayers, this time over the borough's Arts Week, planned for November. The events, they say, have little to do with Westminster and they are equally concerned by the choice of venue - the South Bank Centre, which is, of course, in Lambeth. Geographically close, perhaps, but ideologically somewhat distant.

Drying out

Edwina Currie's path to Thatcherite orthodoxy has been short indeed. Only two years ago, I am assured, in a debate on health she suggested that the terminally ill should be entitled to free medicinal prescriptions. Kenneth Clarke, the minister, is said to have heard to mutter: "And what if they don't die - would she send round the fraud squad?"

Diversion

A reader springs to British Airways' defence after my paragraph about the pilot of a People Express flight - arriving ahead of schedule - who stood at the exit telling passengers how the movie ended. A month or so ago, the arrival hall at New York's Kennedy airport was so jam-packed that the captain of a BA jumbo suggested that the passengers stay on board "and we'll run a brand-new film for you". They did, for the best part of two hours.

Wealthy South Africans making the chicken run to Australia are being dubbed "the new Boat People." Not because that's how they get there, but because one of their first actions on arrival is to buy a yacht.

Saddling up

The Irish government has been asked if it wants to buy back the nineteenth century equestrian statue of Field Marshal Viscount Cough which it removed from Dublin's Phoenix Park after the IRA bombed it in 1957. Two years ago the politically sensitive statue was sold to Robert Guinness, a member of the brewing family, on the understanding that he would take it out of the country. This he did, and it now resides in Northumberland. Guinness says he is mooring a resale, with a view to the statue again going on display, because of the improved relations between London and Dublin since the Hillsborough agreement. Dublin's Office of Public Works is non-committal, conceding only that it will meet Guinness "to hear what he has to say".

BARRY FANTONI



'Cheer up. At least we're only 70 per cent against joining the 30 Per Cent Club'

Bright sparks

I am pleased to find the spirit of aristocratic enterprise flourishing at Althorp, home of Earl and Countess Spencer. On Saturday evening the Spencers threw a party to celebrate the launch of their latest project, a book of photographs, 'Japan and the East', taken by the Earl on a recent trip. While he buckled down with amiable good humour to signing copies, the Countess told me that, irritated by publishers' inefficiency, they had not only published the book themselves but are also taking on the tasks of distribution and publicity. She appears to be wizard at the job. Marks & Spencer (no relation) are negotiating to give the book that ultimate hallmark of popular appeal, the St Michael logo.

PHS

Honesty test for the SDP

Dick Taverne warns against any backsliding on the proposals to alleviate poverty

In recent years any number of ambitious plans to combat poverty have ended in failure. Today the SDP debates a radical scheme for merging tax and benefits and reforming both. Will it go the way of the broken promises of Conservatives and Labour?

This will be a test of the SDP's values and honesty as a party. If we shy away from necessary reform for fear of losing some votes we serve no purpose. The need for reform has seldom been greater. Those living on or near the poverty line now number 16.3 million, nearly one family in three. That is an increase of 42 per cent since 1979.

But more is needed than good intentions. We need a redistribution of wealth, but one which does not prejudice the creation of wealth. We need to simplify tax and benefits, because their infinite complexity has defeated many past attempts at reform. Lastly we need proposals which are politically feasible.

The first need has been met. We propose more generous benefits, but their cost would be limited because our approach is selective. That is where we score over Labour, who believe in universal benefits. But benefits which go to rich and poor alike are either too expensive or cannot be big enough to relieve poverty. By being

selective we can do more for less. We have also been realistic: our scheme does not mean more borrowing to spend on social security. Instead, increased benefits would be paid for by tax increases - but these would come from changing tax allowances, not increasing tax rates. Thus the disincentive effects of higher taxes on extra earnings would be avoided. Indeed, our proposals would provide greater incentives for unemployed and young people to take work.

The second need has been met. We propose a major simplification. Two benefits, family income supplement and supplementary benefit, would be replaced by one basic benefit; two separate taxes, national insurance and income tax, would be fused into one, merging the administration of tax and benefits. Abolishing the individual's national insurance contribution is of special importance in making the system fairer and simpler. These contributions masquerade as an insurance scheme. As their size bears no relation to the size of benefits, they are a tax. Indeed, they are a very bad tax, which is

highly expensive to administer, hurts the low-paid and discourages young people from taking work. It is surprising how long this nonsense has survived.

The main doubts, however, have concerned the political feasibility of our proposals. These doubts arise partly from distortions and misunderstandings. Conservatives, for example, have alleged that we would be putting up income tax to 38 per cent. Not so. Under our scheme, two taxes, of 9 per cent and 26 per cent respectively, would be merged into one of 38 per cent. They say that pensioners would be paying 38 per cent where now they pay 29 per cent. Not so. Because pensioners do not pay national insurance we propose that they should pay a special rate of 29 per cent.

Most serious has been the genuine misunderstanding that all taxpayers who earn more than £10,000 would lose. Again, not so. The error has arisen because when you reform a system riddled with anomalies there is no simple break-even point for gainers and losers. Some who gain from present anomalies would lose; others, who now lose, would gain.

Our new, simpler system would affect people differently according to their special circumstances. There is no simple pattern of gainers and losers.

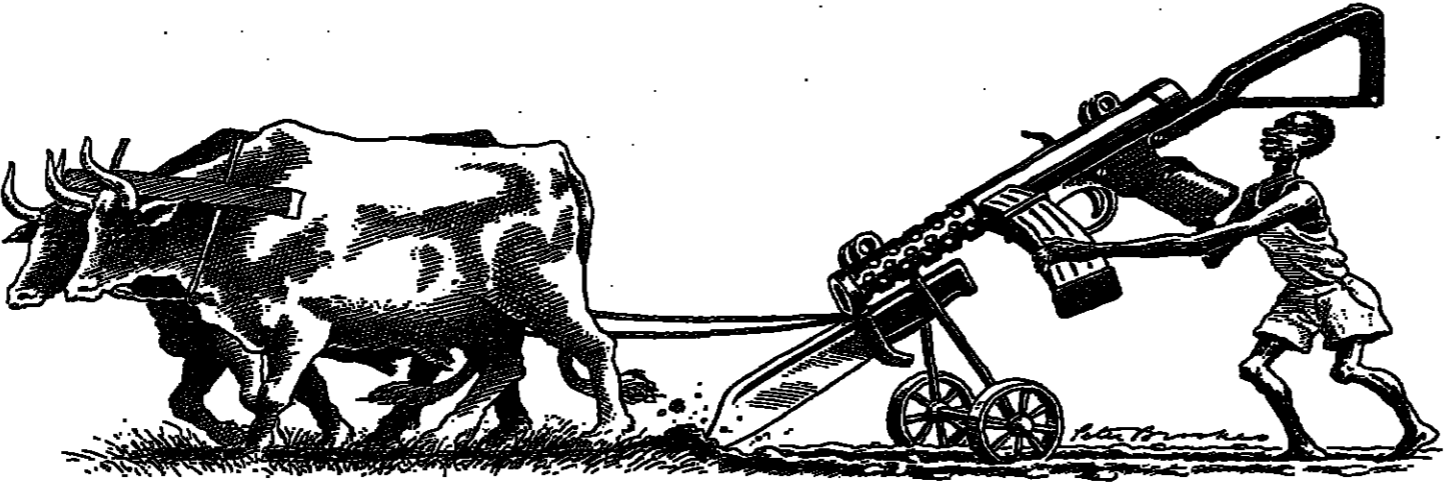
What we can say is that a substantial majority of basic-rate taxpayers would gain (those earning up to £17,200 a year); but we must also frankly admit that many people, who may be considerably better off than the average, but who are not rich, will have to pay perhaps £2 to £3 a week more. The burden would rise at the higher rate bands.

But are such tax increases politically feasible? If they are not, then Britain faces a continuation, indeed worsening, of poverty. It is hypocrisy to pretend, as Labour does, that you need only tax the very rich to help the poor. Conservative policy is that no one should pay more tax. Let us be quite clear what this implies: the poor must be left to rot.

We should put to the electorate very clearly one of the central questions of the day: are we to become the country with the greatest division between rich and poor in Europe? This division is growing and it is making Britain a less attractive place. The SDP's answer is No. Of this we should be proud.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

In one of an occasional series on the internal factors in the South African power struggle, Michael Attwell forecasts that the whites will yield - but peace will be hard to achieve



Shape of life when the ANC is in power

At some point within 15 years the African National Congress is likely to win the first democratic election in South Africa and form a black government. It will win because black nationalism will bring white supremacy to an end, and the ANC is the authentic voice of that nationalism.

Its leaders already enjoy majority support among urban blacks and are gaining further ground there and in rural areas. It is the only uncompromised political force sufficiently broadly based to lead black South Africa.

Few people accept that we are now witnessing the beginning of the showdown between white and black nationalism, but I believe we are. Ultimately the whites will have to choose between black rule and their own ruin.

The South African government, despite two states of emergency, enormous numbers of detentions, thousands of deaths and unceasing policing, is unable to end the turmoil. Its control of black townships has broken down, probably irretrievably. Black forces are setting themselves up there as alternative authorities. And apartheid legislation is being jettisoned. It makes no difference: the government has lost the initiative and is unable to regain it.

The economy still stands largely unscathed - but it can only face unremitting assault. White cities and residential suburbs remain calm but the chaos will slowly spread into these areas. Whites go about their normal business - but it will be increasingly disrupted by riot, arson, bombings and murder.

No amount of force and no political initiative by the government (including any achievement of power-sharing with "moderate" blacks) can stop this. Too many blacks are determined that the majority shall rule. The whites have already lost faith in their own supremacy: they are engaged in a holding operation, and know it. They intend to fight on, but this will bring only greater calamity.

As the prospect of growing peril and dislocation stretches before them, and as majority rule looms with an ever greater sense of inevitability, the point will be reached where the bulk of whites begin to accept that black government is a lesser evil. In the end the surrender document will be signed. The ANC will not find its

transition to power easy. Many whites will refuse to accept the new dispensation. Armed groups will continue to resist, and sections of the police and army may rebel. However, with the majority of whites having come to terms with their new future, white rebels will find their support too narrow to sustain opposition indefinitely.

At the other extreme, many of the insurrectionary young blacks who have become accustomed to answering only to themselves will remain a violent destabilizing presence, and may join battle with the ANC over its political stance. But the black street dissidents will find themselves alienated from the broader black population by a descent into lawlessness and banditry. This, coupled with the ANC's democratic endorsement, its control of the bulk of the armed forces, and the mobilization of its own supporters, will eventually silence them; but the process could last years.

A longer-term problem will be how to deal with the whites. A large minority are going to find some of their worst fears confirmed. More than half the African workforce - about a third of all white workers - is in the public sector. They are often the least well-educated whites, the most racist, and the most despised.

The ANC will be under enormous pressure to find jobs for the millions of unemployed blacks. It will also want to remove the state machinery from unsympathetic hands. So a large number of whites will find themselves displaced, and have to eke out a livelihood in the market-place.

The majority of whites, however, will discover, to their surprise, that their lives do not change all that much. There will be no driving them into the sea or wholesale slaughter. The ANC has long accepted that the whites have

a right to a home in South Africa. Its adherence to non-racism has been as evident in its history and conduct as in its philosophy.

The majority of whites have an economic base independent of the state. They have skills and know-how that blacks will need. The ANC will want to preside over a prosperous country. Certainly it will take majority shares in the largest mining and industrial complexes; certainly it will nationalize some land and redistribute it to the needy. But for most whites, their capital, income and lifestyles will be little affected.

Ironically enough, it is black South Africa that will bear the greatest burden. The long suffocation of black political life has prevented proper representative structures from developing. The new South Africa will have to endure a long period of political evolution as these are formed, tried, tested and altered.

The ANC will come to power as the beneficiary of opposition to white supremacy. Once that has gone, the rallying point will go.

The ANC has plenty of enemies. There are conservative blacks: some rural, some urban. Among the rural are the "homeland" leaders, notably Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of KwaZulu. He is ambitious, impressive and powerful: he has a political organization perhaps a million strong with a paramilitary character.

Then there are more radical blacks. There is a long tradition of

"Africanism" in black South African politics. It represents the idea that only those who identify fully with "Africa" are true citizens. It is avowedly non-racist - but the practical effect of its approach is that many whites fall outside the range of its sympathy, whatever it says.

It has also become fused in its more modern forms with radical opposition to capitalism, which it sees as a mechanism of those who are not true Africans to exploit those who are. One can see at once the potency of these ideas.

The ANC, however hard it tries, will not be able to transform most black South Africans' lives immediately. Many will be disillusioned. There will be a widespread feeling that the ANC is being too conciliatory to whites. Many will want more radical action. Today the Africanist tradition is kept alive by relatively small urban groups; but its long endurance is testimony to the strength of its appeal: its organizations are coherent and well-entrenched; it too has a paramilitary tradition. Here is more conflict in the making - and the promise of further violence.

It is foolish - and racist - to believe that all these disparate forces, black and white, are evil and bent on destruction. The men and women who compose them are honourable people who feel they must do what seems right. We can only regret that human beings are not better than they are.

Under a wiser white government a peaceful sorting out of South African political life might have been possible. With statesmanship the whites would have recognized the needs of their fellow citizens and built bridges with the people who wish them no harm. Sadly, they are neither wise nor statesmanlike.

We have not yet been allowed to see the mettle of South Africa's first black rulers - but we shall. The stresses and strains of the new society will be severe. Only extraordinary insight and skill on their part will prevent South Africa's long blood-letting from ending.

© Times Newspapers, 1980. Michael Attwell is the author of South Africa: Background to the Crisis, published last week by Sidgwick & Jackson (£14.95 hard-cover, £9.95 soft-cover).

Commonwealth visas: Whitehall divided

Will the decision to introduce visas for visitors from "black" Commonwealth countries prove an impossible task? The Foreign Office is claiming that reports from its high commissions in Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India suggest just that.

Foreign Office spokesman are putting out gloomy predictions about lack of staff and lack of office space, and the impossibility of quickly increasing either to deal with more than 450,000 visitors a year. In Lagos, for example, it claims that after only one month there will be a backlog of 8,000 Nigerians clamouring for visas. This figure is based on the estimate that, in the short term, only six immigration officers can be diverted to the task, who, together with staff from the commercial section, will issue only about 200 visas a day. But every week 3,000 Nigerians apply to travel to Britain.

The Foreign Office foresees two consequences. First, visas will be faked; second, visitors will break their journey to acquire them in countries along the way.

Equally acute, they say, is the problem of office space and discomfort envisaged for existing staff. In one city on the sub-continent, the Foreign Office is despairing of finding suitable premises in time, has suggested that a first secretary should vacate the ground floor of his house. Officials say that for an orderly system to be introduced, nine months to a year of preparation is needed. This would allow time to recruit and train extra staff and to provide adequate living accommodation, offices and security measures. Yet the deadline envisaged by the Home Office is one of weeks rather than months.

How realistic are these fears? Certainly recruitment may take time (two who would wish to endure the rigours of Lagos on a government salary). However, the numbers involved are small. The Foreign Office quotes a figure of 150 additional staff, but the Home Office puts the figure at only 50. The image of thousands of Nigerians or Indians running amok on the streets in their anxiety to acquire a British visa

may also be exaggerated. The problem of queuing can be cut down by arranging appointments, which can be quite done by locally hired staff. This already happens in Egypt, where three full-time officers, with occasional relief help, dealt with 45,000 applicants last year. Only the actual interview, which is intended to sort out genuine visitors from those who intend to stay illegally, needs to be conducted by a British official.

Another factor which may make the situation less drastic than the Foreign Office maintains is the time of year. As students return to university, the summer crush declines dramatically. In assessing the logistical argument, it is important to bear in mind the strong underlying doubts in the Foreign Office about the wisdom of the policy in principle. Pains are being taken to play down any differences between the Home Office and the Foreign Office, but Foreign Office doubts persist.

It is not so much that visas in themselves are seen as inequitable. The problem lies rather

in the fact that the new regulations are to be applied to the black Commonwealth and not to the white at a time when relations with black countries are at a low ebb because of the row over South African sanctions.

Both the timing and the manner of the announcement create severe difficulties for the Foreign Office in trying to heal the rift. The temptation to postpone the introduction of the new measures at least until the South African question is resolved is therefore very great. Emphasizing the practical difficulties provides a useful argument for delay.

To the Foreign Office the affair is in fact another example of the government's current parochial preference for short-term domestic expediency at the expense of long-term foreign policy considerations. To Downing Street and the Home Office, the objections no doubt appear as nothing more than customary Foreign Office "wetness".

Kate Finch

Clement Freud

How will Angela do at school?

My first job was in the kitchens of the Dorchester Hotel. I was a veg cook. There came a day when the chef said: "Boy, you beena all right: next week you worka on de fish." It was a substantial promotion and I telephoned my parents to give them the good news.

Nothing like that at Westminster: you go quietly about your business, sneaking on your colleagues to the Chief Whip, writing letters to the newspapers, become secretary of the All Party Group for the Encouragement of Hare Coursing. Then word comes: "Wait by your telephone on Wednesday afternoon." Mind you, no hint of whether you are to become Minister for Social Security, be stripped of office and clobbered with a Damehood or get sent to Northern Ireland and have three bodyguards for the next five years.

The hiring and firing is at the whim of Her and the convention that there must be a telephone call is understood by all. If you are out, you don't get by the job; on the other hand, if you are not in, you don't get sacked either, which is why the more vulnerable ministers take long holidays on Turkish campsites.

Last week's shuffle, positively the final shuffle before the redeal, was to have been announced last Tuesday, then on Wednesday afternoon, then on Wednesday evening. Even though the House is in recess, the intake of '83 - the rumoured beneficiaries - stood self-consciously around the Members' Lobby.

"Good luck," we said to them, passing by, rather as the static citizens shouted "God speed" to the equestrians who galloped the good news to Ghent.

We all knew the sort of people who were going to get promoted, and most of us had read the names of the principal candidates for the chop. Dunn was to go: rumour had it that Dunn was still there only because they couldn't find him to sack him last time. Dunn was jolly lucky to have got there in the first place. Then there was Jopling, odds-on for the back benches a month ago before she leaked the view that a change at Cabinet level could needlessly rock the boat as the election approaches. So Jopling was staying.

Was Ryder too wet, Hogg too bluff, Currie too brash, Portillo too new, Hayhoe too old? They sat in buzzing distance of their phones - dear Edwina actually in camera-shot - doing the little things we MPs do to keep us occupied.

When the dust had settled it was deemed to have been the involvement of women that stood out as the most notable issue. Edwina had got a job. Angela had got a

bigger job. Peggy, who had had a job, is now a Dame.

Chris Patten has not "gone", he has left education for the Foreign Office, in charge of overseas development. He has been pushed from children whom he understood and from teachers who trusted him above any of his colleagues. I believe that even his ideological opponents would consider his move a blow to education. In little under a year, he has turned round the political fortunes within the educational world - and given the appalling record of the well-meaning but accident-prone Sir Keith, that is not something to be dismissed lightly. He has made some of the best-informed and most thoughtful and thought-provoking speeches I have read; now he is not to be allowed to see through the Education Bill.

Without going soft on teachers' professional obligations, he has done much to restore their faith in government and the hope of a decent standing in society. As one union official commented, "He is the only thing that would ever incline me to vote Tory."

Sources close to the Prime Minister have gone out of their way to stress that his move is "career development", not demotion or a vote of no confidence. But one wonders what even a man of his great ability will be able to achieve. Overseas development has greater problems of financial and public support than education, and while Patten realized that being nice to the teachers was not enough, he will have even less room for manoeuvre at the Foreign Office.

Given the rightward shift at Environment - the compounding of Ridley with Boyson - there is a real danger that cash limits will be kept so tightly screwed down that the expectations placed on the education service cannot be met. I know little of Mrs Rumbold, Patten's successor at education. She has a background in local education and some experience of independent review bodies for public-sector pay, which is promising. She comes from Kingston-upon-Thames, one of the last bastions of selective education, which is less uplifting.

I fear, for education's sake, that the Prime Minister has blundered. Mrs Rumbold, we are told in Parliamentary Profiles, is a supporter of the £1 note and Chelsea football club. One has gone, the other is declining. I only hope she becomes a fan of the state education system. Ninety-four per cent of our children have need of her.

The author is Liberal MP for Cambridgeshire North-east.

moreover . . . Miles Kingston

Now the game of the name

Trivial Pursuit is the newest social disease to be identified, at least judging from some of the letters we get in the office. The symptoms include asking to be given encyclopaedias at Christmas, compulsively asking quiz questions at dinner parties when one should be talking about South Africa, and waking up in the middle of the night shouting, "I'll go for arts and entertainment!" Our advice to such sufferers is succinct: stop writing letters to this office.

Some correspondents, however, do seem to be genuine seekers after knowledge and today we answer several of their more interesting questions, about well-known words and names.

Why do so many German place names begin with "bad", as in Bad Ems, but so many Islamic place names end with it, as in Islamabad and Hyderabad? - L.M. of Bath. Because the Germans write from left to right, but Muslims write from right to left.

Who was Improvement Grant? - H.C. of Edinburgh. Just as "Capability" Brown was the foremost English landscape gardener of his day, so "Improvement" Grant was the leading landscape gardener in Scotland. As you might expect, his art was much more puritanical than we are used to in England, and he banned all colourful plants from his garden. At the end of each vista he placed a small, stern kirk and caused church bells to be rung at hourly intervals. He invented a small steam-driven sundial, which told the time by the rain. To the end of his days he tried to perfect a flowering shrub which would not flower on the Sabbath, but sadly he died before he could find it.

Where is Vitreous China? - S.K. of Aberystwyth. Vitreous China is a large island not far from Taiwan, and houses the Chinese Social Democrat Alliance government in exile. The main industry there is the production of porcelain for domestic use, and you will find the name stamped on many basins and lavatories in use in Britain.

Is Conor Cruise O'Brien the only politician named after a travel agency? - R.P. of Canterbury. No. He is the only politician named after a nuclear missile.

I read the other day that Prince Ludwig Xavier of Frantschberg-Spatsee suffered from "a misspelt youth". Was this a misspelt? - H.M. of Leeds. No. He came to manhood without anyone being able to spell his

name accurately. This was compounded by his dreadful handwriting, which caused him to be dubbed "Europe's most illegible bachelor".

Who is Booker Prize Junior? - T.K. of Blackpool. Booker Prize Junior is a soul singer, said to be the most intellectual one in his field. His long, involved songs tend to deal with the problems of Maori hunchbacks growing up in a deprived environment, or Italian peasants grappling with incest and grape harvest failure. Though critically acclaimed, he has never had a hit record.

What exactly are Baby Boomers? - H.B. of Blackpool. Small kangaroos.

I don't want to be pedantic, but shouldn't the expression "down in the doldrums" more accurately be "down in the doldra"? - P.W. of Milton Keynes.

Yes, but only if you also refer to kettle-drums as kettle-dra.

The word "refute" is often used wrongly, as in "Minister angrily refutes accusation of dishonesty". But what should correctly be used in that context? - B.M. of Gooles. Accurately, that sentence should read: "Minister angrily rings up World At One. The Times, breakfast television etc, and demands free time and space so that he can blather on about accusation of dishonesty, without ever producing any evidence for or against."

Is Sir Roger Casement the only famous person who has ever been named after a window? - C.F. of Oxford. Certainly not. There have been General Sir John French, Clark Gable, Hannah Glasse, Thomas Paine and many others.

I have recently read about an organization called The Friends of English National Opera. I was puzzled by the title till I remembered that the Quakers were always known as Friends: is this in fact an offshoot of the Quakers? - A.K. of SW11. Yes, in fact, it is. The Friends of English National Opera are dedicated to Quakerizing all opera texts. For instance, they want to introduce thee and thou, so that it becomes "Thy tiny hand is frozen", and they want all references to swearing by God struck out, and affirming introduced instead. Once that is done, they are going to move on to pop music and bring about such song titles as "Thou always hurst the one thou lovest" and "Thou art nothing but a hound dog".



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

FALSE EXCHANGE

The simultaneous transfer of Nicholas Daniloff and Gennady Zakharov into the custody of their respective ambassadors has temporarily defused what threatened to become a new explosion of East-West acrimony. It may also have saved the second Reagan-Gorbachov summit meeting. But the calm in American-Soviet relations has been bought at a price, and that price may have been too high.

By agreeing to trade the transfer of the US journalist for the Soviet scientist, the United States has for the first time acknowledged the equivalence of the two cases. No matter that the American Secretary of State, George Shultz, publicly rejected that interpretation. No matter that American spokesmen insist that the decision was taken on purely humanitarian grounds and that the issue is still wide open. No matter that Zakharov might still face a trial in the US. The fact is that a parallel between Daniloff and Zakharov has been made, and has been seen to be made, by the rest of the world.

The US has gone back on its earlier statements. Its position, in principle and in practice, is no longer as strong as it was a week ago. That, at least, is the appearance.

There may be, in fact, a distinction between appearance and reality in this instance. In international diplomacy — especially where it touches the spectral world of espionage — there often is. Daniloff's release from the Lefortovo prison to the US Embassy compound may have been traded for something more substantial than bail for the Soviet scientist. There may be more to one case — or the other — than will ever be made public. But the appearance suggests otherwise, and appearance or image is the stuff of international politics.

Appearance suggests that by taking Daniloff hostage the Soviet Union will eventually obtain for Zakharov a lesser penalty than his conduct merited. And the reason appears to be a mutual acceptance on the part of the superpowers that their relations are too important to be sacrificed to a dispute over two individuals.

Superficially and generally, such a motive is reasonable. Should the future prospects for a more stable world, currently hinged on the forthcoming summit, be jeopardized for the sake of one journalist and one scientist? Of course not. But that question as formulated obscures one vital aspect of the affair. This is that the Soviet Union has conducted itself in such a way as to invite the question of whether a Summit in present circumstances can be productive.

The Soviet side, with or without Mr Gorbachov's say-so, resorted to hostage-taking. Whatever else is murky, the sequence of the Zakharov and Daniloff arrests makes this quite clear. That the Russians would not release Daniloff for the sake of the summit, but insisted on a concession over Zakharov first, suggests a disregard of wider international interests which is incommensurate with the Soviet Union's responsibilities as a great power.

It also suggests that the Soviet Union is more concerned about presenting a tough image to the world than it is about actually talking.

The United States, with its greater international confidence, was perhaps more capable of making a tactical retreat for the sake of an improved international climate. It is instructive that those in the US administration whose primary concern was that President Reagan should meet Mr Gorbachov appear now to have achieved their objective. But they sacrificed

important considerations in doing so.

They have demonstrated, first, that the United States is prepared to make concessions simply in order to get to the summit table. That must weaken the American bargaining position since the Soviet side may feel able to extract further concessions by the threat of walking out. That calculation may be wrong. But the summit might fail on that account.

The nature of the American concession is hardly less significant. It establishes a precedent that the Soviet Union can bully the US administration into releasing a Soviet spy by taking any available American citizen as a hostage. In effect, Moscow has established a system of spying without tears which rests upon the vulnerability of all US citizens, notably journalists, on Russian soil. Admittedly, a summit may not always be just ahead to exert additional pressure; but the desire for good East-West relations is a permanent element in Western public opinion.

If the United States is prepared to place the international climate above the reputation of one of its citizens, then it should have made clear the benefits of doing so much earlier. The tactical retreat would have been more convincing if the preliminaries to an exchange had been broached earlier. As it was, the US administration wobbled indecisively. Having once insisted that the cases of Daniloff and Zakharov were in no way equivalent, they would have done well to hold out for more. Instead, they gave away the point of principle they had initially declared sacred. The Solzhenitsyns of this world who chide the west with lack of resolution in opposing the Soviet regime may not be entirely wrong. If a US-Soviet summit has been bought at the expense of so vital a principle.

THE LEAKY MINISTRY

If the Royal Navy's warships leaked as often as its staff, the safety of the realm would be in jeopardy. While one cannot pre-judge the Whitehall inquiry into the discovery of classified naval documents on a tow-path near Reading at the weekend, the timing — at the start of the party conference season — has already given grounds for some suspicion. Those sections which have been released are, as revelations, less than devastating. The documents, whose authenticity was confirmed by the Ministry of Defence last night, reflect well-known service concern over a diminution in the size of the fleet with the prospective real decline in the defence budget through the 1980's. This threatens the senior service in all three elements — below, upon and above the sea.

In the last twelve months, there has been considerable speculation about the real effect that the slackening rate of building surface escorts and the burgeoning costs of new

equipment could have on the Navy of the 1990s. The impact on the budget of finding replacements for the Royal Marines' major assault ships, and the interruption in the building programme for nuclear-powered attack submarines caused by the need to construct four giant new boats to carry the Trident missile — these have provided fertile ground for debate. In general, it became clear about two years ago that after seven fat years to 1986, the Ministry of Defence was about to begin seven lean ones. The document spells out a particularly gloomy interpretation of the consequences.

As the Soviet Embassy reads British newspapers more assiduously, none of this will have been lost upon Red Square. At best, the documents as reported might confirm for the KGB the reliability of Fleet Street as a secondary source.

The impact of this bizarre find is likely to be heavier on the Government's constituency at home than on its

enemies abroad. What the papers do is to underline the pressures which are building up on Britain's conventional forces at a time when the defence debate is reopening — and also at a time when the Whitehall battle for funds is getting under way. While it is hard to believe that any senior military bureaucrat would go to such extraordinary lengths for the sake of a political lobby, the Ministry's reputation for judicious leaking is such that the possibility cannot be overlooked.

If so, it is doubly regrettable. Unless the documents contain more than has so far been released, their value to a foreign power may be limited. But that confidential documents from such a sensitive Ministry could be so openly publicised is itself a serious matter. There is an argument for declassifying much of the material which at present falls into the "restricted" domain. But until the existing rules are changed, the Ministry must keep them.

THE OLD CAUSE (WHOLESALE)

Let Mr Kinnock tremble. In the new classless, unisex multicultural world that shapes today's political conflict, a new kind of Tory is about to emerge heartened to fight the good fight against socialism — and equipped to do so with top quality leather goods. The Blue Rosette scheme, launched today by the Tory Party, is to raise money from the party faithful by offering them, at a discount, every kind of lure from a good glass of claret to a holiday (and the luggage to go with, or to, it.)

Soon the true conservative — best defined in these factional days as a Tory who pays his subscription by bankers' order — will be ready for anything from the washing up in the local committee room to keeping boredom away with a good book in the small hours while waiting for a recount.

Wearing a Conservative tie in quality silk, or a lady's apron with matching tea towel (or quite possibly all three in such special circumstances as a nervous masculine wish to ward off the charge of sexism from *Guardian* women), he will be able to drink his Earl Grey from a mug bearing the party emblem. Or as a historical tribute to a past party leader, he can carry a specially supplied umbrella. Even at Christmas the party will be in

his thoughts in the form of a bagful of leather goods and other party products, with which he can stuff the nuclear family stockings.

It used to be supposed that while socialists lived and breathed politics (even their sex lives being more of a political gesture than a matter of personal fulfilment), the average Tory used politics for strictly non-political ends. Indeed, Tories avoided even political labels where they could, going under such guises as Ratepayers or Independents in local politics.

From the knight of the shire to the suburban tobaccoist, all were united round the thought that the best sort of voter cannot stand too much politics. Once it was agreed that socialism was beyond the pale, the least said or thought about current affairs the better. Even the Young Conservatives were contemptuously dismissed as nothing more than a matrimonial agency by foes who failed to see that this was much the best and most natural way of producing young Conservatives.

All this, however, has long since changed. The Young Conservatives now luxuriate in some pretty controversial thinking (though their thoughts are not quite so controversial as those of the Federation of Conservative

Students to whom not even Lord Stockton is sacred.) All sorts and conditions of Conservatives are into faction-fighting these days. Some have even developed a taste for "ideas".

Now they will all be reminded of their basic allegiance by the party silk knick-knacks, emblematic mugs, and bulging hampers which will be scattered about their houses thanks to the Blue Rosette scheme. Commerce will unite where dogma divided.

And when day is done, they can retire to bed with a good book. For the recent recruit, this might be the equivalent of the little red books issued under Labour auspices, or the diagnoses of Dr David Owen. But the true conservative has an alternative — one which harmonises with the old apolitical instincts of decent Tories. He can choose instead a rattling good yarn by Mr Jeffrey Archer, specially signed by the author.

Only one thing seems to be missing from this amazing representation of the modern ad-man's presentational art: the kind of information pack which comes through the very best front doors these days and which, in this instance, might even be used to provide an easily digestible account of the party's policies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use of funds to study 'cot deaths'

From Mr Paul Ashton and Miss Baksho Sandhu

Sir, In your editorial (September 9) on the breakthrough by the medical researchers at Sheffield Children's Hospital in discovering that an enzyme deficiency is present in some babies who die mysteriously of "cot deaths", you rightly point out that establishing neo-natal screening for all new-born babies would be extremely costly.

You conclude, however, that there is, nevertheless, a good case for proceeding with such tests. We would question that conclusion and would argue that if funds were to become available for nationwide screening there are alternative, more cost-effective, uses for those resources in neo-natal and post-natal health care.

The maximum number of babies whose lives might be saved by identifying and treating MCAD (Medium Chain Acyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase) deficiency is estimated to be between 5 and 10 percent of the 1,500 to 2,000 "cot deaths" per year. Let us say that 150 deaths might be prevented. The cost of carrying out tests for the deficiency is put at over £250 per case, though this might come down to, say, £150 due to economies of scale if mass-screening of all new-born babies — 700,000 per year — was introduced.

The total cost of screening all babies, then, would be about £100 million per year, or £700,000 per child life. In fact, however, the per-child cost would be even

higher than this, since possibly as many as half the 150 babies at risk would be identified and treated at very little cost, now that the hereditary link has been established.

Since Dr Bennett and his team have shown that mothers who have already experienced one cot death are most at risk, tests could instead be confined to this group and to many of the "near-miss" cot death cases. Thus the true cost per child life of mass-screening would be well over £1 million.

If there are additional resources available to tackle the problem of neo-natal deaths, we suggest that they should go into further research to find ways of preventing the other 90-95 percent of cot deaths and to increasing the number of staff in special baby care units, some of which have incubators and equipment lying idle while very sick babies are nursed away.

We feel sure that £100 million spent in this way would save many more babies than the net £70 million to £80 million that might be saved by mass neo-natal screening for MCAD deficiency. Yours faithfully,

PAUL ASHTON (Department of Economic and Business Studies), BAKSHO SANDHU (Health Economics Unit), University of Liverpool, Eleanor Rathbone Building, Myrtle Street, PO Box 147, Liverpool, September 10.

Bath, sin city?

From Mr J. T. Pearce

Sir, In your issue of September 8 you report on the vice and crime existing in 18th-century Bath. The Chief Inspector of Bath Police states that Bath is now more like sun city than sin city. Both my parents and both sets of grandparents were natives of Bath and as a boy, I had many happy visits to the city. So in June, to celebrate the 70th birthdays of my wife and myself we took my son and daughter, and their spouses and our four grand-children to Bath for a nostalgic weekend.

On the Friday night, after dinner, we decided on a walk in the centre of the city. Within 10 yards of our hotel in Queen Square we were surrounded by drunken youths hurling abuse and pushing us off the pavement. When they passed on, and

undeterrred, we went further into the city centre. Here were more gangs of drunken youths blocking the thoroughfares and behaving in a really frightening manner. Outside the "discos" large and formidable "bouncers" guarded every entrance.

Defeated and quite afraid we returned to the hotel. On the Saturday night conditions were even worse and we did not venture far.

On neither of the two nights did we see a single policeman and the one who did was clearly under the influence of alcohol. We have been surprised to see that the "discos" have been surrendered to the "toughs". I wonder what the many Americans staying at the hotel made of it all. Yours faithfully, J. T. PEARCE, 21 Burn Bridge Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, September 8.

British Library

From Professor J. Mordaunt

Crook. Sir, Lord Quinon's argument (September 10) is based on a fallacy: that the "totality" of the British Library's holdings can be stored and used on a single site. That is not the case now, and never will be. Indeed the plans for a new library at St Pancras perpetuate the principle of fragmentation: the newspaper library will remain at Colindale, and large sections of printed material are to be housed in a separate depository in Islington.

Such a compromise would make the best of the unhappy situation created by the rejection of Professor Colin St John Wilson's previous scheme — designed in conjunction with Sir Leslie Martin — for a new British Library in Bloomsbury in front of the British Museum. J. MORDAUNT CROOK, 55 Gloucester Avenue, Regent's Park, NW1, September 10.

Forbidden fruits

From Dr M. S. Davies

Sir, Still on the subject of weeds and vermin (see *The Times*, September 2), while walking the length of Hadrian's Wall from Newcastle to Carlisle at this time of year two years ago, I was struck by the large number of huge mushrooms along the verges of the Military Way (the B6318).

I like to imagine that these are the defiant progeny of past delicacies enjoyed by the centurions on this bleak northern border of the Roman Empire, having survived the ages and now thriving

on a 20th century diet of tarmac, "grit", and cigarette ends and the other debris hurled from passing vehicles.

As to whether they are still a delicacy, I doubt whether anyone knows, for it is too hazardous to stop and pick them as the traffic hurries along the narrow Roman road as it stretches away straight into the distance. Yours faithfully, M. S. DAVIES, The Forest, Cranbrook, Kent, September 3.

EEC-Japan trade

From Lord Stoddart of Swindon

Sir, Mr Brinkhorst's reply (September 1) to James Bourlet (August 11) concerning trade with Japan is typical of the overbearing arrogance we have come to expect from apparatchiks of the Common Market. In 1985 the UK's deficit in manufactures with the EEC approached the frightening figure of £9,000 million, many times greater than the deficit with Japan or with any other country for that matter. Furthermore, the restrictive trade policies of the European Community not only obstruct the trading position of Britain but in some respects also encourages the manufacture of certain goods outside this country with consequent damage to employment here.

And I must tell him that the whole of our delegation was, first of all, impressed by the courtesy and professionalism of the ambassador and his staff. We were also impressed by their knowledge and understanding of Japan, its people and institutions and, above all, by their commercial expertise in relation to Japanese business and the potential for exploiting and penetrating the Japanese market.

Given the choice (which I unfortunately no longer have) I would prefer to trust the British Embassy in Japan to look after the UK's trading interests than Mr Brinkhorst and his delegation and that also goes for our trading interests elsewhere in the world, the management of which, Mr Brinkhorst is proud to boast, has been wrested from Britain by the EEC. My guess is that so would a majority of British people. Yours faithfully, STODDART, House of Lords, September 4.

Level of crime on television

From Dr H. Hillman

Sir, There has been much discussion about the extent of violence seen in television programmes, and its possible effect on the crime rate. However, I would like to express a wider concern, which may well be shared by other readers.

I strongly object to the large number of programmes on murder, crime, prisons, police and fraud — even when no violence is seen. I regard many of these programmes as creating the feeling among the public that murder, crime and fraud are major and acceptable pursuits of a substantial proportion of the population.

In my view, they are not, and the massive output by what is inevitably one of the most influential segments of our education system gives the impression that they are. Can nothing be done to reverse this unwholesome trend? Yours faithfully, HAROLD HILLMAN, Director, Unity Laboratory of Applied Neurobiology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, September 8.

Douglas-Home trust

From the Patrons and Trustees of the Charles Douglas-Home Memorial Trust

Sir, The tragic death of Charles Douglas-Home at the height of his powers deprived journalism of one of its most energetic and vital talents. As Editor of *The Times* he was a help and support to young journalists and a passionate defender of free speech and free opinion.

He went out of his way to ensure that widely differing views were expressed in the columns of *The Times* so that the political debate was enriched and the foundations of democracy strengthened.

To commemorate the life of this remarkable man and to perpetuate his work a memorial trust is being founded with the aim of upholding a concern for truth, accuracy, and open discussion. Its purpose to begin with will be to provide an annual scholarship for a writer, researcher or journalist.

It is planned to advertise for applicants, with a specific subject or area of research being proposed. An independent body of judges will make recommendations from applications received, and *The Times*, whose Editor will be an *ex-officio* trustee, intends to publish excerpts from work undertaken. We hope this trust will be a lasting memorial to Charles Douglas-Home and that his friends, colleagues and admirers will lend it their support. Those wishing to contribute may do so by writing to the secretary to the trust: Barbara Day, 53 St Donat's Road, London SE14 6NU. Signatories: THE DUKE OF KENT, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, LORD HAILSHAM, MARGARET THATCHER, LORD ANNAN, LORD BLAKE, ALFRED BRENDLE, SIR GEORGE CHRISTIE, LADY MARGARET DOUGLAS-HOME, THE HON WILLIAM DOUGLAS-HOME, LORD GOODMAN, IAN GOW, LORD GRIMOND, LORD HOME, THE CHIEF RABBI, ROY JENKINS, BERNARD LEVIN, THE HON HELEN MILDMAY-WHITE, DAVID OWEN, SIR WILLIAM REES-MOGG, SIR JOHN SAUNSBURY, DAVID STEEL, SIR LAURENS van der POST, Trustees: JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME, EDWARD CAZALEY, DAVID DIMBLEBY, BAMBER GASCOIGNE, DAVID PRYCE-JONES.

Listing of houses

From Mr Peter G. Elphick

Sir, Recently the Department of the Environment informed me that my house had been included in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and that the listing had already taken legal effect. The inference in the department's letter was that I had no right of appeal.

I do not know who the inspector was, but I do know that in the North-east (and, I understand, nationally) these inspectors are recommending listing of almost anything which looks as if it had been built before the end of the 19th century. Certainly my house is not worth listing, and I have notified the department why.

However, when the Housing and Planning Bill was debated in the House of Lords on July 30, 1986, Lord Ehon replied to the question of appeals against listing raised by Viscount Ridley, and he said: My noble friend... rightly said that such an appeal exists. It is true that it is not generally known. I was advised that this was the case when I took office and I then arranged that everyone whose house was subsequently listed should be advised that if he felt it was wrongly listed he had but to send his reasons to my right honourable friend to have it reviewed and, if appropriate, struck off the list.

Anyone who feels aggrieved should appeal by writing to the Department of the Environment, Room 18, Lambeth Bridge House, London, SE1 7SB. Yours faithfully, PETER G. ELPHICK, Ridley Mill House, Stocksfield, Northumberland, August 14.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 15 1806

The "great pleasure" proclaimed in this leading article on the capture of Buenos Ayres on June 27, was short-lived: it was retaken by the Spaniards in August. In July the following year General Whiteleche, in command of 8,000 troops, failed to regain the town, lost 2,500 men in the attempt, and had to suffer a humiliating surrender. On his return to England Whiteleche was court-martialed, found guilty and cashiered. The Cape of Good Hope references are to the capture by the British of that colony in January 1806.

[CAPTURE OF BUENOS AYRES]

It is with great pleasure that we lay before our readers the Gazette Extraordinary of Saturday last, which announces the surrender of Buenos Ayres to the British arms. This conquest is highly important from its intrinsic value, but still more so from the circumstances which attended it, and from the very critical time in which it is made known to the British public and to Europe. There can hardly be a doubt that the whole colony of La Plata will share the same fate as Buenos Ayres; and from the latter hopes held out to the inhabitants in the proclamation of General Beresford, they will see that it is their true interest to become a colony of the British empire.

The circumstances which attended this success, are in the highest degree laudable to the British name, and to the character of our brave army. Here, as at the Cape of Good Hope, the enemy abandoned their excellent positions, when they perceived the British troops advancing resolutely to the charge.

The capture of the Cape of Good Hope, however, was effected by an expedition evidently adequate to the object. The capture of Buenos Ayres, on the other hand, was made by a very inferior force, relying merely on its courage. The whole body of British troops, marines, and sailors, that landed did not amount to 1700 men. The Spaniards, to the number of 2000, according to General BERESFORD, (or 4000, as magnified by Sir HOME POPLHAM) were a match for the British, and the only mode of approaching them was through a morass. The enemy also had, as in the battle of Maida, a full knowledge of the inferiority of the force that was attacking them. General BERESFORD states "that the enemy, from his position, could have counted every man he had." Notwithstanding all those advantages, they would not venture to await the attack of the British troops, and abandoned the important city of Buenos Ayres to an inferior army.

The country stands now on a much poorer footing than it has done since the Negotiation with France commenced. In Calabria, the excellence and superiority of the British troops have been shewn to the enemy and to all Europe. By our success in La Plata, where a small British detachment has taken one of the greatest and richest of the Spanish colonies, BUONAPARTE must be convinced that nothing but a speedy peace can prevent the whole of Spanish America from being wrested from his influence, and placed for ever under the protection of the British Empire. What region of the habitable world could he then look for "ships, colonies, and commerce?" There is another circumstance attending this success, which distinguishes our Army as much for its generosity, as for its superior bravery and discipline. While the French armies plunder and ruin every country (hostile, friendly, or neutral) which they set their feet upon, the British army gives up, even to its enemies, that wealth which the laws of war had made its own. Such unexampled generosity and moderation will doubtless make the inhabitants of the Spanish colonies wish to be connected with Great Britain. By such an union we should have a never-failing market for our commodities, and our enemies would be forever deprived of the power of adding the resources of those rich countries to their other means of annoying us.

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In the belfry?

From Mrs Josephine de Goris

Sir, Mr Harry Porter (September 10) asks which species of owl (stuffed) would be most effective in deterring bats from his church, and where it should be placed. The late vicar of St Margaret's Church, Birstley, the Reverend Arnold Mallinson, attempted this remedy in 1951, when the organist found she was playing white notes on the harmonium thinking they were black such was the depth of bat droppings. But there were other problems; people came regularly to say that there was an owl trapped in the church, and once one was found perched on the pulpit, as though preaching a sermon.

After that it was nailed down to the top of the newel post on the corner of the vestry, and set up a stuffed owl but it appeared to be so similar to our dear Rector of the time (*de mortuis*) that we had to withdraw it. The bats remain. Yours faithfully, JOSEPHINE DE GORIS, The Chantry, Park Lane, Appleton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. From Mr. D. Lawrence-Jones Sir, Mr Porter will have to be careful about stuffed owls. We too are troubled by bats, some years ago we obtained and set up a stuffed owl but it appeared to be so similar to our dear Rector of the time (*de mortuis*) that we had to withdraw it. The bats remain. Yours faithfully, D. LAWRENCE-JONES (Church Warden), All Saints' Church, Rettondon, Chelmsford, Essex.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION: weekend programmes and interview

No way to crack the shell

No doubt Russell Harty is a charmer to meet. But, as an interviewer, there is something faintly grotesque in the way he pads off abroad to lure the lives out of the distinguished (it is a sobering thought that to date the only film of Sir Harold Acton is in conversation with the former Giggleswick schoolteacher).

Squatting in their shade and squeezing a few pips of wisdom, perhaps he hopes to swell into another Boswell or Freeman. So far the only thing that has swollen is his chin, which last night drooped like wet putty on to his T-shirt as he sat talking to Dirk Bogarde at his home in Provence.

Playing Tazio to Bogarde's Aschenbach, Harty asked a number of obliquely pruned questions in *Above the Title* (Yorkshire) of which "Do you think you're handsome?" was the first. "Let's talk about the monstrosity," he urged as Bogarde described how Judy Garland was the greatest.

After failing embarrassingly around the subject of the actor's private life, Harty made one final stab at getting under the shell. "No one's ever possessed you?" No, said Bogarde, but his expression was that of someone asking what on earth can have possessed him to agree to this interview in the first place.

"All of you dig elephant traps," he warned of interviewees like Harty, "and I know where they are." And yet, and yet, as television it was uncomfortably riveting to watch Bogarde stall about the false bamboo.

Harty's undeniable strength is the contrast he offers with his subjects. Looking incredulously at him after a particularly impertinent question, there is always a moment when they are on the verge of crashing off rudely into the undergrowth (cf. Grace Jones). If he has kept his distance it is because they usually decide to help him out of his own hole. In doing so, they reveal something new about themselves.

With his deep breaths, his finely timed hesitations and his humming voice, Bogarde did successfully parry Harty's lunges and roam movingly over territory he has already written about in his four fine volumes of autobiography. His account of Belsen brought him to the edge of tears as he remembered the rotting bodies trying to greet him with a Victory sign and a girl with breasts "like empty purses" who saw some rations wrapped in the *Daily Mirror* and wanted the bundle not for the food but the newspaper.

Other nuggets included an admission he was not so dear and cuddly ("I ain't") and that he did not much like acting ("That's a revolutionary remark," said Harty hopefully). But throughout, having the measure of the man grinning opposite, he preserved his wonderful, irascible self. As he rasped at one point with that charming smile, "I'm certainly in the shell and you haven't cracked it yet, honey".

BBC1's new hospital drama, *Casualty*, continued its first-class swing through a casualty ward's doors. Realistically acted and scripted, and filmed at a better-kept pace, the series makes even the DHSS spot-check inspector a three-dimensional figure — though today's health cuts make him more of a hawk than a Sparrow.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Thames TV is a company worth more than £100 million, after its recent Stock Exchange flotation. It is also the ITV company with the biggest problems, not least of which is the retention of its franchise in two years' time. One man who will determine the soundness of new shareholders' investment is David Elstein (right), Thames's Director of Programmes.

Not quite like a return to Eden

Although David Elstein claims to have taken up his appointment with no illusions, he was aghast when they told him that *Return to Eden*, the supremely schlocky and disgracefully popular Australian soap opera which has been the cornerstone of Thames's contribution to the ITV summer schedule, might run to a sequel.

"They said 'it doesn't end', I then them it had to end, even if we had to make up the ending ourselves", he says. Until he took control of Thames's programmes this spring, Elstein's slender, intellectual hands were untouched by schlock, popular or otherwise. He is in his early forties and comes from the journalistic side of television, rather than the province of showbusiness. The immediate impact of his style showed in Thames's coverage of the World Chess Championship, complete with reports for schoolchildren and a reciprocal deal with the Soviet Union. He got a kick out of giving that a fast OK.

Elstein has spent a total of 14 years working for the company he now heads, first on *The World at War*, Jeremy Isaacs's series which endures as a model of compulsive documentary, and then as the editor of *This Week*. He quit in 1983, pushed by lack of sympathy with Bryan Cowgill's regime and pulled by the prospect of producing independently for the new Channel 4. His independent companies, Brook Productions and PrimeTime Television, are admired for their profitability as well as the quality of output such as *A Week in Politics* and *The Writing on the Wall*.

Returning to Thames is obviously no return to Eden. "Because I know everything that there is to know about the company, I come with no illusions. It would be nice somehow to renovate and give some new impetus to people who have been here for some time. I think in any organization the arteries get clogged by age-old disputes — it's just so different from working on a green-field site. Nothing gets forgotten, on the management side or on the union

side, but it would be very much more frustrating if I hadn't worked here. At least I know what can happen, and don't try things I know won't work."

The first changes designed to equip Thames to retain its franchise are exactly what were expected of a director undoubtedly chosen for his ability to impress the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The existing current affairs series, *TV Eye*, has been scrapped and has been replaced by the re-invented *This Week*, headed by Roger Bolton, a former *Panorama* editor with a radical profile as high as that of his new boss, Jonathan Dimbleby, a former colleague at Thames, returns to make a series of investigative documentaries. In addition, there are plans for a new series on the City and on the arts and entertainment in London, in almost slavish response to criticisms in the IBA's mid-term review. These changes should introduce a strand of hard-edged, authoritative current-affairs programming into the company in time for the 1988 franchise review.

There has been a perceptible decline in the quality of Thames programmes since the golden age of the mid-Seventies, when programmes like *The Naked Civil Servant*, *Edward and Mrs Simpson* and *Minder* won both audiences and awards. However, the major threat to the company has arisen from what the managing director, Richard Dunn, describes as a "change in the ecology of broadcasting".

"Both ITV companies in London will be faced with a unique challenge at the next franchise round", Elstein explains. "There are now companies like Carlton (who recently made an unsuccessful bid for Thames) which can go to the IBA and say 'we can do everything the existing companies can do at two-thirds the cost, without breaching any national union agreement'. We have got to adjust to that reality, forget about custom and practice and how-it's-always-been-done, change our way of working so we can be more cost-effective. If we don't do that we will be at risk, and deservedly so."

Steak, spruce and dark-suited,



Elstein looks more like a merchant banker than a television executive, and his analysis of the way in which the structure of independent television works against the cost-effectiveness of individual companies is fluent. His independent days have taught him an acute commercial sense. "As an independent I learnt what life is like in the real world. If anyone here wants to know how to make programmes with the lowest cost and the highest quality, they can look at *The Writing on the Wall*, which was the most economical series to make."

"I also got a sense of the overseas market. I spent a lot of time getting to know the main players. Euston Films (the Thames subsidiary which made *Minder* and the forthcoming series of John Mortimer's *Paradise Postponed*) is the easiest part of the company to turn in that direction, but there is no reason why our other productions should not be just as market-oriented."

It will not be easy to streamline and inspire Thames, the largest ITV company in terms of manpower, with more than 2,500 employees. Elstein anticipates that about a third of his current-affairs team will change under Roger Bolton, and a new computerized newsroom will also help. However, in the fat years before Channel 4, when an ITV franchise could justly be called a licence to print

money, the major broadcasting unions negotiated generous agreements, and the average wage in the company is now £18,500 per annum, with around 100 employees in the £30,000-plus bracket. Thames is not in the extreme position of London Weekend, ITN and TV-AM, all of whom have to pay their staff handsomely for working unsocial hours, but it is still an expensive company to run.

One solution which Elstein refuses to consider is commissioning cheap programmes from independents. This mushroom-crop of small companies, many of whom have a dawning suspicion that Channel 4 cannot keep them all in business, naturally looked to Elstein as a champion, a role he instantly declined. "I'm hungry for ideas", he says, "and reading scripts and proposals takes up a lot of my time, but the stereotype I have in the trade press as the saviour of the independents is wrong. I think there has been a misunderstanding; I am not going to put Thames's money into funding independent programmes at the expense of our own productions."

Informed opinion is presently confident that, with David Elstein at the helm, Thames will retain its franchise and regain some of its reputation for quality programmes.

Celia Brayfield

Close of the Proms

BBCSO/Leppard Albert Hall/BBCtv/Radio 3

As far as flag-waving is concerned, the Italian tricolour did not do too badly for itself in this year's Proms. With Verdi and Monteverdi, Berio and Dallapiccola enjoying prominent positions, the idea of Puccini letting his hair down seemed a not unreasonable apotheosis. The first half of the Last Night was his alone.

Every Union Jack in the house was still for the sleepy, luxurious start to the *Preudio sinfonico*, an early and beautifully orchestrated student piece which tuned the ear to a nicety for the *Messa di gloria*. Surprisingly, it was a performance which took its sacred format rather more seriously than the work does itself. It would be difficult to mask the flamboyance of the piece: the boisterous Gloria with its "Tu solus Dominus" strafed by trombones; the irate trumpeting in the Sanctus before a Hosanna which only momentarily recalls itself to piety. But Raymond Leppard encouraged sobriety and moderation from the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the very English soloists, David Rendall, David Wilson-John-

son and Matthew Best. Even after the interval Leppard played along his audience discreetly and cautiously. The *Scapino Overture*, Walton at his most caustically witty, certainly got every section of the orchestra going, and Bax's *Mediterranean* near gently started the action in the arena. A sleazy opening, somewhat reminiscent of "I Do Love to be Beside the Seaside", was abruptly transported by castanets to the Costa del Sol, and the Prommers swayed like a wave of the sea.

As balloons rose and streamers fell, Britten's *Solèa musical* cued in the soloists among the audience, from party trumpeters to tin-whistlers; and then the hush. The first-horn verse of "Land of Hope and Glory" passed in reverential silence; the rest, conducted rather like a Te Deum in Trinity, rose nevertheless lustier and mightier yet. Mr Leppard, with the nostalgia of a true expatriate, gently reminded his audience that there was no one like them in the wide world, nothing quite like the Third Programme, and, with an exhortation to "Look after the BBC, will you", graciously pointed his baton towards "Rule Britannia" and "Home, Sweet Home".

Hilary Finch

LPO/Solti Albert Hall/BBC2/Radio 3

Every Prom season contains its ordinary concerts, but it is hard to find many that filled that category in this one. Indeed, if anything, the festival suffered from its own diversity. But it is churlish to complain in the face of the riches we have been given over the past two months. On this penultimate night we were, as tradition dictates, fully involved with the noble exhortations of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Richard Morrison reported last week on the impact that this same team, consisting of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Singers, the Chorus of Welsh National Opera, London Voices, and a starry line-up of soloists, all under the direction of Sir Georg Solti, were making with this work in Frankfurt. And, when the television lights came up on the choir in the finale, the sound that came from them was indeed utterly thrilling.

The soloists made quite an impact too, with Jessye Norman, forthright as ever, taking the first quartet by storm, quickening the pace and sharpening the rhythm. Her top note near the end, needless to say, was glorious, full-throated, accurately pitched and dynamically well controlled. Hans Sotin, the bass, matched her for sheer resonance, while Sara Walker (mezzo) and Reiner Goldberg (tenor) took the inner parts with a distinction rather less assertive.

Yet the contribution of individuals inevitably took second place to Sir Georg's masterly shaping of the whole. The urgency of his beat in the first movement was not such as to destroy its sheer immensity, while the slow movement, the key to a gratifying performance, was most beautifully sculpted, with Solti maintaining his slow, natural tempo to its end. And the Scherzo's relentlessness was meat and drink to such a conductor. By and large, too, the orchestra were on superb form.

Stephen Pettitt

Dance Swan Lake Covent Garden

A double welcome is due at Covent Garden, firstly to Peter Wright's and Galina Samsova's handsome production of *Swan Lake* which Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet is showing as part of its season at the Royal Opera House. Premiered in 1981, the production retains all its coherence and dramatic logic: Philip Prowse's Victorian-Gothic design looks sombrely grandiose on the Covent Garden stage and the company is dancing splendidly. Longer acquaintance with some of Wright's own choreography, notably the Act I waltz and the Neopolitan quartet, makes it appear tiresomely fussy and unmusical, but the production as a whole remains a triumph with few to rival it.

The second welcome is for David Ashmore, who left the company in 1984 after many years as its leading man to join the Australian Ballet. He is back for a brief guest season, and what a pleasure it is to see again his beautiful stage manners, fine partnering and clean dancing. His technique has been further polished and he has gained immeasurably in authority.

Of the company's own Siegfrieds, Roland Price, who danced the opening performance, partnering Margaret Barbieri, has improved to the point where his virtuosity is about to become really thrilling: superb elevation, beautifully stretched feet and well placed arms. He has a tendency to let the carriage of his head mar his line and his partnering is still a weak point, but he projects more dramatic



Margaret Barbieri: great stylistic contrast

intensity than I have seen from him previously, Peter Jacobsson, in his London debut, benefits from Scandinavian blond looks which make him stand out on stage, but he does not yet move like a leading dancer and he has a tendency to dance from the waist down, seemingly leaving his arms to do what they will. He appears to be a strong partner, and his performance

was touchingly sincere. Samsova was his Swan Queen. Her technique has lost some of its steely precision but much more important is the feminine warmth she brings to the role, the fluidity of her dancing and the way she uses her arms and her amazingly supple back. Samsova seems more at home in the White acts, as does Marion Tait dancing with Ashmore. Of the three Swan Queens I saw Tait seemed most technically assured, and gave a sound, intelligent performance. But I do not feel this is the role which best suits her lively personality.

Barbieri achieves the greatest stylistic contrast between the White and Black acts. As Odette, the way she used her head and her undulating arms was perhaps rather mannered, but it served to underline the difference between the White and the Black Swan. A dancer for whom a step always conveys a meaning, hers was the most dramatically satisfying performance.

Barry Wordsworth conducted sensitively, although he seemed to be encouraging the cygnets to attempt the world land speed record.

Judith Cruickshank

Rock Run DMC Hammersmith Odeon

By the time Run (Joseph Simmons) and his partner DMC (Daryl McDaniels) had both reached the stage, it was pointless to clap. The audience had come well prepared with whistles and hooters; the screaming clamour reminded me of old footage of the Beatles, when the sound of the band is frequently drowned by a cacophony of screams. And, with their DJ Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell) in tow, Run DMC are the Beatles (or the Bob Marley, or the Sex Pistols) of hip-hop: simply the biggest thing that this relatively new but increasingly popular variant of American street music has thrown up.

There is a competitive element peculiar to hip-hop, which requires its practitioners to be hard, boastful and, like boxers, psychologically determined to prevail if they are to get anywhere at all. Guile and a sense of humour are also essential, and the three 21-year-olds from Hollis, Queens, NY, delivered the whole package with plenty to spare in less than an hour.

No instruments were used, accompaniments being provided entirely by Jam Master Jay's two record decks. He is not a particularly flamboyant "cutter" and tended to let the

rhythm track records play without an excess of flashy jumps, a sort of Charlie Watts in the Grandmaster stakes, leaving the coast clear for Run and DMC to holler their tuneless declamations in fine, aggressive style.

In their black tops and black hats, the two vocalists, alternating sentences and words in rapid bursts, proclaimed their own unquestionable pre-eminence in numbers such as "King of Rock" and "Peter Piper".

The great strength of the performance was its directness. Freed from any melodic

or harmonic distractions, the performers slugged across with unfettered power their message of pride and a good dance beat. Although they played down their much-vaunted alliance with heavy rock, they consistently generated the sort of primitive excitement that used to be the norm at early rock concerts. Hip-hop has the kind of arrogance, crass innocence and uncaring vitality that urban rock 'n' roll took as its starting point. Run DMC are the worthy, if unlikely, inheritors of those raw traditions.

David Sinclair

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Owen wins support for stand on arms

Continued from page 1 policy himself, to be more friendly to the Liberals and to stress the SDP's eagerness for arms control as well as its eagerness to maintain a British deterrent.

Mr Cartwright warned delegates that he would not relish going into the election saying that the Alliance would decide on what to do about replacing Polaris after it was over. The Tories, he said, would play the defence card and play it hard.

After the debate Mr Cartwright said that the SDP leadership would go on negotiating with the Liberals with their hands being tied. "By early next year we must be in position to start giving broad indications. It won't be easy."

Last night, Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, told a fringe meeting: "Those of us who have argued a long time for there to be a strengthening of European links have always argued from the point of view that Europe ought to be powerful and strong enough and conscious of its own strength sufficiently to be able to withstand pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union and not to be in a hock to them."

"I have never ever conceived of the possibility of that being based on a nuclear capability. It would seem to me mad to establish a third major superpower with a capability of using nuclear weapons. It would be a totally retrograde step."

Mr Steel and Dr Owen have begun work on drawing up a team of joint Alliance spokesmen, to be completed by Christmas.

The team, which will inevitably be dubbed an Alliance shadow cabinet, will include SDP and Liberal figures presently outside Parliament, such as Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Bill Rodgers, Mr Richard Holmes, Mr Steel's key adviser, and Mr Alan Watson, a former Liberal president.

The formation of the team will help to defuse claims that Dr Owen's SDP is a one-man band.

Cathedral's crumbling grandeur



Mr Peter Reid, above, chief fund-raiser, shows a crumbling wall. Below, a damaged capital in the Galilee porch.

A £4 million appeal to restore the 12th century Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire will be launched in London on Wednesday, with the Duke of Edinburgh as patron. The planned repairs will be the first major renovation for more than a century.

Ely Cathedral, the "Ship of the Fens", is regarded as one of the glories of English ecclesiastical architecture, but water, weather and the deathwatch beetle are taking their toll.

The trustees say that £4 million is the minimum needed for basic repairs. About £800,000 is needed for work on the nave roof and the Octagon tower. Repairs to the Lady Chapel and the north and south knave aisles will require £1 million.

Ely Cathedral, whose stone walls are badly buckled (Photographs: Chris Harris)

Tensions remain over Danilooff

Continued from page 1

The strain of the detention and the continuing threat of a trial - he has to report by phone to his KGB interrogators every weekday - came out sharply at one point when Mr Danilooff, aged 52, was answering questions about charges laid by Tass, the Soviet news agency, that he had signed a document agreeing to the charges laid against him.

"I have always said that I was under no instruction from any government agency and that all my actions were taken on my own initiative or at the request of my magazine, and that I never believe in God's full truth," said Mr Danilooff, who was flanked by his wife Ruth, 51, and an executive of US News & World Report, the magazine he has represented here for 5 1/2 years.

Many of the reporters crowding into the US Department of Commerce building in central Moscow asked about an attack by Tass - the most serious of its kind since Stalin's era - over their reporting from inside the Soviet Union.

"I dug deeply and because I did that, I became a little more obvious than people who might just rewrite Tass," Mr Danilooff told them. "The invidious part is that the more you dig, the more you draw suspicion on yourself."

Dressed in a burgundy jacket and wearing tinted spectacles against the glare of television lights, Mr Danilooff - who had spent his second night inside the US Embassy - gave his first accounts of events leading to his arrest. He was asked whether he now had second thoughts about accepting the package from Mishra, a Soviet teacher friend.

"Once you have been sandbagged by eight men on a street, totally unsuspecting, put into a van, your hands pinned behind your back, in handcuffs, of course you wonder - why the hell did I do that?" he replied. "But the fact of the matter is, I knew this man Mishra for several years. He is a very charming fellow; our relationship grew over a period of time. I trusted him."

Frank Johnson at the SDP Unchanged, but not unchanging

The famous Yorkshire sp... sedately golden in an autumn sun, this weekend received the annual conference of the Social Democratic Party. Memory prompted that the previously most implausible cast of characters to descend on the resort were those of Tobias Smollett's Expedition of Humphrey Clinker on their journey across the north of England.

Before getting the train, a search of the shelves for an edition of that masterpiece confirmed that this was indeed so.

"The lodgers of each inn, said Smollett, "form a distinct society, that eat together, and there is a commodious public room, where they breakfast in Disabille... from 8 o'clock till 11, as they chance or choose to come in. Here also they drink tea in the afternoon, and play at cards or dance in the evening."

Distinct societies that eat together! Commodious rooms! Breakfast in Disabille from 8 o'clock till 11! Afternoon tea! Dancing in the evening! That is the life which some of us feel that the SDP's Mr Roy Jenkins was born to lead.

Anyone, such as myself, who had only just got back to this country, having been abroad for a few years, cut off from direct contact with British public life would have found this weekend that much had changed and much had remained the same some of us were fortunate to board on Saturday a carriage at Euston which contained examples of both change and continuity.

Seated in it, for example, was Mr Julian Critchley, the Conservative Member for Aldershot to whom the anti-Thatcher Resistance had given the task, when last I was in England, of writing the same article over and over again full of imperfections about the Prime Minister and the uncouthness of the modern Conservative Party. A brave man, then.

And here he was, after all these years of the Occupation, still writing the same article. It was to appear in the Observer the following morning. It had been in that paper for the preceding several weeks in the form of a summer column. It would be appearing in The Sun this week, he told me, in the form of a daily commentary on the SDP conference.

This last news meant that, as in the old Classics Illustrated comics of my own childhood, a standard work of literature was to be made available to the masses in an accessible form. Change was represented in the same carriage by Mr Roy Jenkins' wife who, in my absence, had become Dame Jennifer Jenkins and, as I first understood, Mr Critchley, had been made chairman of the National Front.

Today's events

- Royal engagements: Princess Anne, President, Save the Children Fund, attends the Launch Luncheon of New Industry and Commerce Initiative, Mansion House, EC4, 12.50. The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron in Chief, Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association, opens the sheltered accommodation for senior citizens, 64-70 Barrow Rd, SW7, and 13-19 Jeff Rd, SW2, 2.30. The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Computer Society, chairs the final Judging Meeting of their Awards, Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, 2.15. Princess Alexandra attends the 40th Anniversary Gala Concert of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Albert Hall, SW7, 7.20. New exhibitions: Paintings by Mary Rose Hardy and Diana Compston;

Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery

Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends Sept 27). Designer jewellery by John Mckeller, 23 Church St, Herford, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends Sept 27). Prints by Tim Mara, ceramic sculpture by Christie Brown, textile and paper hangings by Elda Abramson; Oxford Gallery, 23 High St, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Oct 15). Exhibitions in progress: Ceramics by Paul Brown and paintings by Carlo Rossi; The Open Eye Gallery, 75 Cumberland St, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4 (ends Oct 2). Paintings by Alan Green and Jeffrey Dennis, sculpture by Alison Wilding; Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 11 to 5.30 (ends Oct 11). Remnants of the Authentic; German photographs art of the Eighties; Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Collingate, York. Sculptures by Lynn Chadwick; Beaux Arts, York St, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Oct 16). A dozen views on paper; Cirencester Workshops, Brewery Court, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Oct 18). The Forest; paintings, sculpture and photographs; Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Oct 12). Work by Cecily Sash and Jonathan Kingdon; Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge St, Bath; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5 (ends Oct 11). Still life; National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson St, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.40 (ends Nov 29). Some yellow flowers of late summer are often found to grow on the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later. Some yellow flowers of late summer are often found to grow on the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later. Some yellow flowers of late summer are often found to grow on the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later.

Nature notes

Chaffinches and blue tits are feeding on the berries of whitebeam trees. The chaffinches try to drive the tits away, but they quickly return, hanging upside down on the crimson bunches. Great crested grebe families still swim together on lakes; the young are now as large as the adults, but are much whiter round the head. Thrip-tailed young pheasants lurk in the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later. Some yellow flowers of late summer are often found to grow on the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later. Some yellow flowers of late summer are often found to grow on the grass, while their mother will fly noisily away, they prefer to run. Lapwings are gathering in large flocks. Green sandpipers from the continent feed at the edge of small marshy pools; when flushed they tower into the sky with a flash of black and white and disappear, but often come back to the same pool later.

Roads

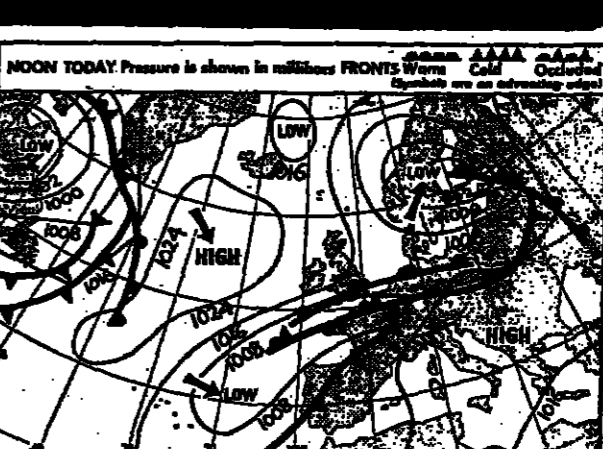
Wales and West: M4: Contraflow on westbound carriageway between junctions 16 and 17 at Swindon and Chippenham. M42: Contraflow on westbound carriageway closed at junction 24 (Newport). Lane closures in both directions at junction 46 (Swansea). M5: Northbound lane closures between junction 11 (Cheltenham) and 12 (Gloucester). The North: M6: Reconstruction on both carriageways at junction 32 (M55) to junction 33 (Garsington). M62: Contraflow between junction 19 (Heywood) and junction 22 (A672). M18: Major roadworks between junctions 6 and 7 (Thome to M62). Scotland: M8: Bridge work between junctions 29 (Paisley) and 30 (Erskin Bridge); roadworks between junctions 17 and 15 (Dumbarrow); eastbound carriageway closed. M9: Bridge work between junctions 10 (Stirling) and junction 9 (Dunae). Information supplied by AA.

Cadmium guide

A revised guidance note for people working with cadmium or cadmium compounds together with a free leaflet has been published by the Health and Safety Executive. The guide, which was produced following a review of the hazards created by cadmium and its compounds, contains new information on health-related matters. It is available from HMSO or book-sellers, price 25p (includes postage). The leaflet, which outlines the hazards created by cadmium and explains the precautions required, is obtainable free from HSE enquiry points or Area offices.

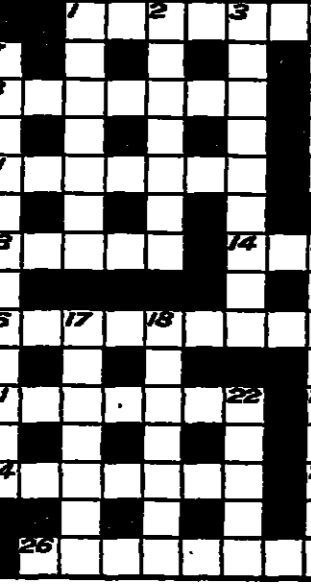
Weather forecast

Pressure will be low over Scandinavia and to the south of the British Isles. An anticyclone over the central Atlantic will maintain a ridge over central parts of Britain. 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S England, Channel Islands: Mainly cloudy with rain in places, perhaps prolonged; wind northerly or fresh; max temp 14C (57F). SW England: Cloudy with rain in places at first, becoming mainly dry; wind northerly, moderate or fresh; max temp 14C (57F). East Angles, Midlands, S Wales: Mainly dry, cloudy at times. Some bright or sunny intervals; wind northerly, moderate or fresh; max temp 16C (61F). NW, central N, NE England, N Wales, Lake district, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, West Highlands: Mainly dry with sunny periods; wind W or NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 15C (59F). Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland: Sunny intervals and showers, some with hail; wind NW, fresh or strong; max temp 13C (55F). NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers, some with hail; wind NW, strong; max temp 11C (52F). Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Most places will be mainly dry with some sun, though still rather cold. During Tuesday cloudy weather with some rain will spread into northern Scotland and continue southward into northern England during Wednesday.



High Tides table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and NT. Locations include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Plymouth, etc.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,151



Music

Poole Proms: Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Wexley Hall, Poole, 7.30. Talks, lectures: Falcon Watch, by a National Park Ranger, 1.30. Forty years in Lakeland, by Mildred Warden, 3.30. Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Brockhole, Windermere. General: Antique Fair: Town Hall, Bakerswell, 10 to 5. Open Day at the Regent Centre; Regent Centre, High St, Christchurch, Dorset, 10.30 to 9.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$, Austria Sch, Canada \$, Denmark Kr, Finland Fmk, France Fr, Germany DM, Greece Dr, Hong Kong \$, Italy Lira, Japan Yen, Netherlands Gld, Norway Kr, Portugal Esc, Spanish Ptas, Sweden Kr, Switzerland Fr, USA \$, Yugoslavia Dnr.

Anniversaries

Birch: Henry Sweet, philologist, London, 1845. Deaths: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, London, 1859; William Seward Burroughs, pioneer of adding machines, Citronella, Alabama, 1898; Thomas Wolfe, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1938; Anton Webern, composer, Mittersill, Austria, 1945.

Our address

Information for inclusion in the Times Information Service should be sent to: The Times Information Service, 20 Box 1, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9XN.

Lighting-up time

London: 7.46 pm to 6.05 am. Edinburgh: 6.07 pm to 6.16 am. Manchester: 7.06 pm to 6.54 am. Newcastle: 6.27 pm to 6.59 am.

Yesterday

Table showing temperatures at midday yesterday for various locations: Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Plymouth, Southampton, Swansea, Torquay, West Coast, and Wexley.

ACROSS

- 1 Capital town is what interests him (12). 8 Half of them finished up everything (7). 9 Demonstrate about everything, though not really serious (7). 11 Title characters have to rest (3,4). 12 "Never complain and never..." advised Disraeli (7). 13 Gather a well-qualified man is joining the ship (5). 14 Pottery having novel article in stock (9). 16 An area of Spain or USA - A land anyway (9). 19 Trains and remains audacious (5). 21 Make about a thousand burn (7). 23 No particular military man (7). 24 Grace's title (7). 25 A permit held by the runner (7). 26 They let you in for transport charges (8,4).

DOWN

- 1 A girl the soldiers like turned up (7). 2 No place for outsiders! (7). 3 Male tutors first to admit pleasure is their aim (9). 4 This yarn, some feel, is legendary (5). 5 Contend the old king should be given fruit (7). 6 A bit of a pudding, this ruler's wife! (7). 7 Ben... called law-breaking very sensible (4-3). 10 A painter's bodice for the cold weather? (12). 15 Agreed on a mixer for the drink (9). 17 Works with the family in fine leather (3-4). 18 Hero's admirer - skinny regressive leftist (7). 19 An Irish howler! (7). 20 Serials can be very stuffy (7). 22 Strange omen about a boy in Ireland (5).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,150 will appear next Saturday

Concise Crossword page 10

Portfolio Gold

Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows: 1. Times Portfolio Gold is an investment fund. 2. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 3. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 4. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 5. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 6. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 7. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 8. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 9. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 10. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 11. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 12. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 13. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 14. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 15. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 16. Times Portfolio Gold is a company limited by guarantee. 17. 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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET (Change on week) FT 30 Share 1270.9 (-67.5) FT-SE 100 1608.6 (-76.2) Bargains 22687 USM (Datastream) 124.17 (-3.4) THE POUND (Change on week) US Dollar 1.4755 (-0.0225) W German mark 3.0373 (-0.0269) Trade-weighted 71.0 (-0.7)

US NOTEBOOK Fears of inflation outweigh the facts From Maxwell Newton New York

Back in the middle of April something terrible happened to the American financial markets. And they have not recovered. The December T-bond, which peaked at nearly 104 in mid-April, stood at little more than 96 in the second week of September, five months later.

The Standard & Poor's 500 stock market index, which increased from 170 to 243 in mid-April, has since just risen to 250. The NYSE index of stock futures, which rose from 106 in October to 144 in mid-April, has failed to exceed 145 significantly since that time.

The explanation is not to be found in any of the following: A sudden advance of economic activity after mid-April. The second quarter has turned out to be the worst for four years.

BOARD MEETINGS TODAY - Interims: Boustead, CD Bramall, John Crowther Group, EIS Group, Hugh Mackay, Manders Holdings, Manor National, Myson Group, PE International, P & F Stores, Ramones, Sims & Jeffries, Shires Investment, Simon Engineering, Soundtracs, Suter, Television Services International, T&S Stores, Finals: Dalgely, Dom Holdings, Ernest Green and Partners, GT Japan Investment Trust, John Haggas, London Securities TOMORROW - Interims: Barton Group, Brixton Estates, Croda International, Estates and General Investments, First Scottish American Trust, Fisons, Hall Engineering, Iceland Frozen Foods, Bernard Matthews, Metsec, Pitard Group, ET Sutherland and Son, Trade Indemnity, Watmoughs (Holdings), Stewart Wrightson, Yule Catto, Finals: Abaco Investments, Consolidated Gold Fields, CPI Computers, Macro 4, Merivale Moore, Mezzanine Capital Corporation. WEDNESDAY - Interims: Banro Industries, Barrose Corporation, Bridon, Candover Investments, Delaney Group, Legal and

Gatt nations start crucial talks to halt protectionism

From Bailey Morris, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Ministers of 92 nations met yesterday in this seaside resort to launch a new round of trade talks amid tight security and threats of a walkout by countries wanting to unseat South Africa. The week-long talks, described as the most important global trade talks in 40 years, will determine whether or not the ministers of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) embark on long negotiations to halt the slide towards protectionism by opening up markets in agriculture, services, and investments in other areas.

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to play a crucial role in the talks as the "honest power broker" who will seek to forge a compromise in his capacity as chairman of the European Economic Community ministers council. Britain holds the presidency. At the outset, the talks are

shaping up as a replay of 1982 when the United States and Europe tangled in a bitter dispute over agriculture at the last Gatt ministerial meeting in Geneva. France has already objected to the language on agriculture in the working communiqué and the United States has threatened to walk out if the language on phasing out subsidies is weakened.

Mr Channon's aim is to secure an agreement on the EEC nations by today or tomorrow in order to achieve a negotiating strategy that will remove as many obstacles as possible on agriculture and services. Britain's goal in the talks is to place as many issues on the agenda as possible to allow the round to go forward in a manner which will cover all the broad trade areas. The British delegation, which is also headed by Mr Alan Clark, the trade minister, will also press for specific language urging the world to address the

large Japanese trade surpluses. As ministers gathered today to give their opening statements, a group of nations led by Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Jamaica, launched a campaign to unseat South Africa from membership in protest against its apartheid racial policies.

The protest against South Africa was not supported by Britain and the United States and was not expected to succeed. The protesting nations threatened to walk out. An equally embarrassing motion to seat the Soviet Union at the talks with observer status was also expected to fail.

The United States, which has pressed for years for the start of the new round, has much at stake in the talks. Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, said on a US Air Force plane en route to the talks that a success in Punta del Este was crucial to President Reagan's trade policies in 1987. Faced with protectionist measures in Congress, and a trade deficit projected at \$200 billion in 1986, the US Administration believed it must have action on five key issues to fight off the protectionist pressures at home. These include language in the communiqué covering, in addition to agriculture and services investment, intellectual property rights, and strengthening of the Gatt. In the area of intellectual property rights alone, which covers such things as patented drug products and high-technology inventions, the US claims it is losing \$20 billion a year through counterfeiting and piracy.

Inflation is expected to remain at or below 3 per cent for the rest of the decade. "Uncertainties about oil prices and opposition policies have unsettled financial markets," Professor Minford says. "Tight monetary policy, partly in response to this uncertainty, has led to a weakening in business sentiment."

He believes that the Chancellor should cut interest rates in line with the present slow

growth in the narrow money base, M0. The Liverpool forecast is for 3.1 per cent growth next year, after 2.7 per cent this year. Inflation, measured by the consumer price index, is to average 3.4 per cent next year after 3.7 per cent this year, before falling below 3 per cent for the rest of the decade.

Unemployment is forecast to fall gently but will not drop below 3 million before 1989. The balance of payments is expected to slip into deficit next year, in line with most forecasts. But the Liverpool projection is for a current account deficit of only £0.1 billion next year, compared with the National Institute's deficit forecast of £5.8 billion.

The forecast, published by Liverpool Macroeconomic Research, remains at the optimistic end of the range of British projections.

Mr Nicholson said: "No body should be written off just because they are long-term unemployed. Restart is all about ensuring that does not happen by giving the long-term unemployed an equal chance of getting a better share of what is going."

There are now 250 JobClubs around the country. By the year end the MSC hopes to have 300 clubs rising to 450 by April.



Change in store at BHS Staff give the final touches to the redesigned BHS store in Glasgow at the weekend when all 128 branches of the chain were revamped following the merger with Sir Terence Conran's Habitat Mothercare group.

'Growth will reach 3.1% next year'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The economy will grow more strongly next year, buoyed by consumer spending, according to the latest quarterly forecast from the Liverpool University Group headed by Professor Patrick Minford.

A modest decline in unemployment is also possible, as the Government's special measures take effect. Inflation is expected to remain at or below 3 per cent for the rest of the decade.

"Uncertainties about oil prices and opposition policies have unsettled financial markets," Professor Minford says. "Tight monetary policy, partly in response to this uncertainty, has led to a weakening in business sentiment."

He believes that the Chancellor should cut interest rates in line with the present slow

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Unemployment is forecast to fall gently but will not drop below 3 million before 1989. The balance of payments is expected to slip into deficit next year, in line with most forecasts. But the Liverpool projection is for a current account deficit of only £0.1 billion next year, compared with the National Institute's deficit forecast of £5.8 billion.

The forecast, published by Liverpool Macroeconomic Research, remains at the optimistic end of the range of British projections.

Mr Nicholson said: "No body should be written off just because they are long-term unemployed. Restart is all about ensuring that does not happen by giving the long-term unemployed an equal chance of getting a better share of what is going."

There are now 250 JobClubs around the country. By the year end the MSC hopes to have 300 clubs rising to 450 by April.

Drive launched to raise UK exports to Japan

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The Government has embarked on a drive to persuade UK manufacturers to take advantage of the rise in value of the yen to export more consumer and industrial goods to Japan.

With the UK's top 30 exports to Japan totalling only about £1 billion a year, ministers believe that the time is now ripe for a British onslaught on Japanese consumers.

Armed with intelligence from the British embassy in Tokyo, Whitehall officials say Britain is in a favourable position because the country has attracted 36 per cent of all Japanese investment in Europe in recent years - twice as

much as any other EEC country. A substantial increase in inquiries at the Tokyo embassy from British companies and potential Japanese importers has been received. In the first six months of the year, a record 1,400 businessmen sought the assistance of the embassy's commercial section.

The UK Government is determined that industry should grasp the new opportunities and reverse Britain's declining share of total Japanese imports which has dropped from 1.9 per cent to 1.4 per cent by value in the five years to 1985.

World stock markets focus on London

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The London Stock Exchange will be watched nervously by investors around the world when it opens for trading at 9am today. After last week's heavy falls in New York and London, dealers will be focusing on London as the first major market to open since the weekend. Tokyo is closed today.

The FT-30 Share Index fell by 67.5 points last week to end at 1,270.9. The loss was caused by panic selling on Wall Street on Thursday when the Dow Jones industrial average fell by 86 points before falling another 34.17 points on Friday.

Dealers are likely to take a cautious attitude until New York starts trading at

LET set to bid for Kellogg

London & Edinburgh Trust (LET), the property and financial services group, appears set to bid for Kellogg Trust. Mr Nick Oppenheim's factoring company.

In a complex arrangement, due to be announced this week, LET will reverse its financial services arm into Kellogg and then make an offer for the group. However, LET is intent on retaining Kellogg's listing and the bid is likely to be only just above Friday's close of 91p, which valued Kellogg at about £11 million.

By dint of their large size, it is the American markets which rule the roost in the options and futures world. Over the past 10 years they have demonstrated the scale of their inventiveness by the rapid expansion of contracts, particularly in the financial and stock index sphere.

Yet the same executives who continually break these contract frontiers are loath to consider a world without trading floors where business is executed at the touch of a button.

For many of the exchange chiefs here at the annual meeting of the Swiss Commodities and Futures Association, the whole question of doing away with open outcry trading touched a raw nerve.

Asked when the pit system would vanish, more than one evoked his family by replying: "Not in my children's or grandchildren's lifetime."

Many of the executives obviously consider that the hurly-burly of the trading pits is as essential to futures and options trading as baseball and apple pie are to America

G-5 to review progress

The Group of Five will meet in Washington on September 26, with the aim of reviving economic cooperation between the leading economies. The finance ministers and central bankers of the five countries - the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan

and France - will be seeking to iron out policy differences that have arisen ahead of the main IMF meeting.

The meeting is expected to review progress following a further fall of the dollar against both the mark and the yen, since the last Group of Five meeting in April.

least dipping its toe in, particularly the minnows of the industry. The New Zealand Futures Exchange may do less business in a year than some US markets do in a day, but it does it all through a fully automated trading system developed by the International Commodities Clearing House.

Mr Leonard Ward, the exchange's managing director, made it clear he wanted to needle some of the industry giants. The automated system, he pointed out, provided a perfect audit trail for transactions, the current bug bear of regulatory authorities as well as strike prices that can only be charted in all its varieties on a central exchange floor.

Whether those banks which have been equally inventive in organizing complex swaps and other risk-management instruments for their clients would agree is questionable.

The exchanges also realize that they are no more than the sum of their members, and many of their members, particularly individual "local" traders, would be without a living if the pits went and the telephones took over.

Several exchanges have introduced, or plan to use, automatic execution for small orders in an attempt to chip away at the paper contract mountain in the pits. Doubtless aware that such technology can easily be extended to any size of orders, floor traders have raised doubts. Mr Bill Brodsky, president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, said: "Whenever we say automation to floor traders they think we're trying to put them out of business."

But where America fears to tread, the rest of the world is at

Restart 'finds jobs for 10%'

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Long-term unemployment is being denied by one of the latest initiatives of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Restart, an intensive counselling scheme for the long-term unemployed, was launched nationally at the beginning of July after some six-month pilot schemes proved effective. First indications are that 10 per cent of those counselled are finding jobs.

Another MSC initiative, the JobClub, which coaches the unemployed in job-hunting, has also started producing encouraging results. One in three of those going through the clubs are finding jobs. Some long-term unemployed are being referred to JobClubs through the Restart scheme.

Grappling with the long-term unemployed problem is now a crucial target, said Mr Bryan Nicholson, the MSC chairman. He went on: "With those out of work for less than four years the tide has been turned but not with those unemployed for longer. Hopefully we shall start to do that."

While the number of those jobless for four years or less has been sliding over the past 12 months, those on the dole for up to five years has risen 11.5 per cent while those without a job for five years or more has gone up 48 per cent.

Employers tend to favour those who most recently in a job. The long-term jobless also lose motivation and become out of touch. A Restart course, usually lasting a week, aims to put that right.

Out of 167,000 people counselled in the Restart programme to August 14 just over 17,000 have found jobs, according to the latest MSC returns. The MSC has recruited 2,000 civil servants to carry through the Restart programme which aims by next March to interview all of the 1.3 million who have been unemployed for a year or more.

The MSC has already heard of some successes. At Dyfed in Wales a man out of work for five years was found a labourer's job within half an hour. A cook at Liverpool was placed in part-time work after 17 years without a job.

Mr Nicholson said: "No body should be written off just because they are long-term unemployed. Restart is all about ensuring that does not happen by giving the long-term unemployed an equal chance of getting a better share of what is going."

There are now 250 JobClubs around the country. By the year end the MSC hopes to have 300 clubs rising to 450 by April.

Top pay awards average at 7.7%

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Many of Britain's largest employers are ignoring the decline in inflation and paying their executives large salary and merit rises in a bid to discourage them leaving for better paid jobs with competitors.

The latest quarterly figures from the top pay unit of Incomes Data Services (IDS) show that the average increase recorded in the three months was 7.7 per cent - more than three times higher than the 2.4 per cent inflation rate.

The rate of executive pay rises has hardly declined from the 8 per cent of a year ago, but IDS stresses that current awards were budgeted for when inflation was 4-5 per cent.

The latest IDS survey, covering 110 organizations of which more than half are manufacturing companies, shows that some senior managers in the private sector have been awarded salary rises of 25 per cent in recent months, although "an exceptional executive" would normally expect to receive 12-15 per cent.

Where direct comparison was possible, 12 of the manufacturers paid bigger executive increases this year than last, 15 lower and five the same.

Those paying more included Allied Breweries, Campbell's Soups, Fisons and Greenhall Whitley. Those who have cut the rate of increase include Anchor Foods, Bestobell, BICC, Bronx Engineering, Glaxo, ICI, Shell UK and 3M.

In the public sector, the latest pay review range from 5.5 per cent for people such as heads and vice principals at polytechnics and colleges of further education to the 6.5 per cent just agreed for electricity supply managers. Groups covered by review bodies have done a little better.

IDS comments: "Though generally still below average, pay awards in the public sector have often been higher this year than last but continuing Government restraints have meant pay levels falling still further behind those in the private sector."

The IDS figures reflect the dramatic impact on salaries of the big bang in the City next month, with the "market making" conglomerates fighting for investment and software skills.

TSB float

Telephone inquiries about the flotation of the Trustee Savings Bank should be made to 0272 300 300 and not to the London office of the bank as was suggested in Family Money on Saturday

SIEMENS The new Siemens T1000S Telextraordinary. 21-line display screen. Prepare and edit messages like a word processor. Quiet daisy wheel print quality. Store received messages for editing. Memory capacity up to 80,000 characters. Aiming to needle industry giants. Siemens in communications - where the future happens first.

ANALYSIS

Measuring success Index-matching the job for fund managers

by mirrors

Fund managers are measured according to the performance of their funds against an index of the market. In the United Kingdom the most representative index is the FTA All-Share Index.

The purpose of indexation, or passive fund management, as it is also called, is to enable a portfolio, or part of a portfolio, to mirror the performance of a chosen index. In practice, exact matching is impossible because managers cannot always buy all the securities comprising the index. In addition, dealing and management costs will always result in a certain amount of underperformance.

Passive fund managers do not agree among themselves as to the "correct" method of indexing.

Managers who seek to replicate the index will hold every stock comprising the index. This can be very expensive to maintain, especially when investing new money or reinvesting dividends across what can be several hundred stocks.

Managers who seek to duplicate the index will use a representative sample which can be relied on to track the movements of the whole index within defined limits. This type of indexing is much cheaper to run.

Based on their long-term performance record, fund managers should index-match their funds, clear out their desks and go home. Over a sustained period, most fund managers will fail even to match the index they are trying to beat. Therefore, the solution to stopping them from frittering away our future pensions is passive fund management.

So runs the argument put forward by some of the more enthusiastic advocates of index-matching, or passive fund management. There are now sophisticated computer programmes which enable portfolios to mirror the index so that, excluding dealing costs, they will perform exactly in line with the index.

Active pension fund managers labour under many disadvantages. To begin with, the sheer size of their funds tends to make them inflexible. A single investment decision can involve the need to move millions of pounds and very often positions in stocks cannot be built up quickly.

Another disadvantage is that fund managers are operating in sophisticated and efficient markets peopled by individuals who have been trained in the same investment culture and who think and act alike. Most of the information on which investment decisions are based is readily available to all of

them, and share prices adjust quickly to their collective judgment.

In the UK, only 25 per cent of equities by market capitalization is owned by individual investors. The other 75 per cent is "managed" by one type of institution or another. The fund managers therefore are the index to a very large extent and they are all trying to outperform one another.

But when they all have the same information, think alike and respond in similar ways,

Operators fail to beat rivals because they think alike

none is likely to be able to maintain an advantage over the others for very long. The empirical evidence is that in the long term, regardless of how well they are staffed, most investment firms fail to do so. Analysis of performance statistics shows that as much as 80 per cent of a fund's return is attributable to strategic decisions and only 20 per cent to stock picking. In other words, it is much more important to be in the right markets than to be in the right stocks.

The chart bears this out. In 1981, fund managers should have avoided Australia and Canada and invested heavily

in Japan and the United States. In 1983, Australia was the best performing market, but in 1985 it was one of the worst, and the successful fund would have been overweighted in Europe and the United Kingdom in 1985.

This suggests an important conclusion: fund managers should spend most of their time evaluating each country's economy, currency, inflation outlook and stock markets, rather than analysing individual stocks.

Traditionally, the emphasis has been the other way. Teams of analysts pore over the minutiae of company profit forecasts, while global market economic analysis has been left to a very few specialists. But it has to be said that they may not be any more successful at picking markets than they were at picking stocks.

What also emerges from the chart is that UK pension fund managers often do significantly worse than the local indices when they invest overseas. They outperformed in Tokyo in 1981 and 1983, but underperformed in 1985. They consistently underperformed by significant margins in Australia, the US and Canada.

They most closely tracked the index in the UK, further proof of the dominance of fund management thinking in the British market. But it is

their home market and the one they know best.

This leads to a second conclusion: on current form there is a strong case for indexing at least part or all of the overseas portfolio, and possibly also a case for indexing the UK portfolio since, over time, performance in line with the market is the best the UK portfolio manager can hope to achieve.

Fund management organizations tend to be small, with few decision makers. It is very difficult for most

Expertise needed for global work can be expensive

management houses to maintain the level of knowledge and expertise needed for global investment except at very great cost.

Passive fund management is more commonly found in the US than in the UK, but is possibly not indulged in as much as the bald numbers suggest. It amounts to \$19 billion (£13 million) out of \$186 billion of US corporate pension fund schemes invested in US equities, or around 10 per cent. Across all types of funds, it is estimated that there is a total of \$80 billion is estimated to be in passive funds, again about 10 per cent.

In the UK, there is an estimated £8 billion of passively managed funds, equivalent to 5 per cent of the £150 billion of UK pension funds invested in the equity market. Indexing has caught on with only a handful of UK pension fund managers. Postel and the British Telecom pension funds alone account for £4.5 billion of this.

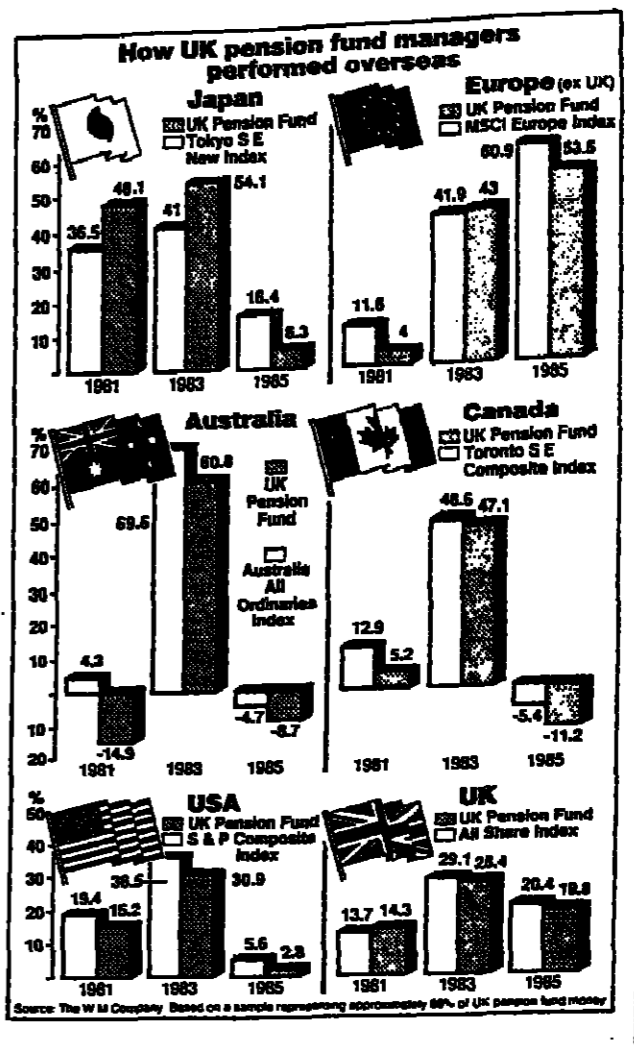
Aquila Investment Services, the passive fund management arm of financial conglomerate BZW, claims to be the next biggest with £1.5 billion. Close behind is County Securities. The Esso pension fund is much smaller, but it has more than 75 per cent of its UK equity portfolio indexed.

Interest in passive fund management looks set to grow with the increasing globalization of markets. Aquila is expanding its passive funds, while Chase Manhattan and Legal and General have both announced they are setting up indexed funds.

Once indexation really catches on, and everybody goes global, the international market will become increasingly efficient, and fund managers will be back where they started, this time underperforming the global index.

Until, that is, some bright spark suggests picking stocks!

Carol Ferguson



Source: The W & A Company. Based on a sample representing approximately 60% of UK pension fund money.

GILT-EDGED

Rates threaten to hit 11%

Even grumbled London dealers admitted to a sense of relief last Friday when the wind-down started ahead of the weekend. Never before, admitted one old gilt hand, have prices fallen so far and so fast - and then turned round and moved the other way. The overall direction for yields may be upwards, but it is all too easy to get whipsawed on the way.

In the past fortnight, prices have fallen about four points. At one stage last week, furious selling saw prices down six points. This means that yields have risen by 40 basis points since the start of the month, rising from 9.61 per cent to 10.04 per cent.

Yet on Friday afternoon, between 1.30 and 1.35 after US retail sales data and the Producer Prices Index were released, futures rose by two points - and then lost one.

The picture seems fairly easy to rationalize. But how the United Kingdom fits in remains incalculable. The September market gyrations represent a study in changing inter-relationships between the three main cash variables which influence investor sentiment - money rates; bond yields; and exchange rates. Continued adherence by Germany and Japan to tight monetary policies has devastated the previous structure established by the US. The net effect of their rigid stance has been to leave bond yields in London and New York seeking a new higher level of return.

The Bank of Japan and the Bundesbank would like to see monetary policy tailored to exchange rate stability. If bonds sell off, then rising bond yields are the negative by-product of more sensible policies.

More disquieting for bond market bulls is the way central bankers in Tokyo and Frankfurt appear to have developed a market strategy capable of imposing this view. In the short term, this shows up as determined intervention in forex markets, putting a floor to the dollar above DM2 and Yen 150.

Rising US bond yields support the dollar, but devastate investor sentiment, as traders start to fear a resurgence in inflation. Equities crash off, witness last week's record fall by the Dow Jones. Eventually, the upwards shift in money market rates more or less

obliges the Fed to tighten in a bid to restore confidence.

Such is the theory which attempts to enshrine last week's violent New York sell-off in some form of rational structure. Equally, the US is quite capable of eluding the policy constraints which Japan and Germany seek to impose on it by cutting rates again, and forcing the dollar down through support levels.

The UK's role in this global power-play is ambivalent. London seems to have enjoyed the worst of all worlds in the shakeout mainly because of the flawed composition of its exchange rate and monetary policies.

London has been targeting Frankfurt on interest rate policy; this has kept rates high and supported sterling. But gilts have been shadowing New York, a split which enabled the Chancellor to let monetary policy grow unchecked without any obvious impact on yields. The optimism built into this structure has now been laid bare.

A gilts' sell-off would be enough to destabilize sterling. This would bring the Chancellor's whole convoluted structure tumbling down, by forcing interest rates up to defend the currency.

And higher rates threaten the very coping-stone of the Chancellor's pre-election strategy. Since an early election next year looks increasingly likely, an autumn hike in rates this year could seriously damage any number of manoeuvres, therefore, to prevent base rates rising to 11 per cent this autumn.

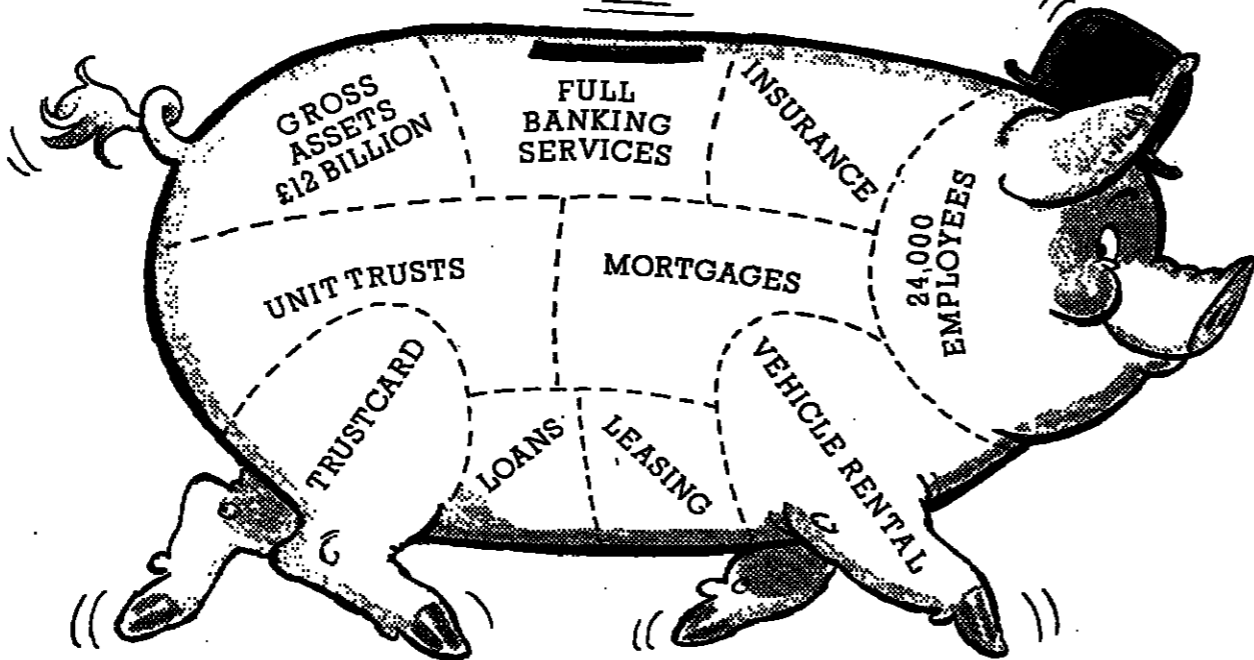
The Government's chances of avoiding a base rate rise look worse than 50:50. Demand for credit is booming. In short, German and Japanese moves to impose a different set of disciplines on the US is impacting on British bankers in Tokyo and Frankfurt.

London may pull through without a base rate rise, but it looks unlikely. German growth is powering ahead. By Q4 the Bundesbank ought to be thinking of tightening. And Germany is the price maker in this situation.

The full ripple effect of a harsher climate for rates has yet to hit New York and London, whose key cash variables look thoroughly destabilized. Gilts, even at 10 per cent yields, seem expensive.

Christopher Dunn
Orion Royal Bank

This little piggy's come to market.



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The TSB wants shareholders from all over the country and all walks of life.

Now it's your turn to say yes.



1986

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
RETAILING

Stores fight it out in the high street

A revolution in retail thinking lies behind the huge take-over battles which have buffeted Britain's high street store groups during the past few months. Big is no longer beautiful in business terms.

High volume sales no longer automatically lead to profit — and hemlines can be any length the wearer chooses. Sir Terence Conran started the retail acquisition craze in early 1982 when his Habitat company bought Mothercare. Less than a year later came the sale of F W Woolworth (one of the biggest landmarks on the retail property map with more than 1,000 stores) to Paternoster Stores, a consortium of City financiers.

The ripples caused by the new owners' attempts to redesign such a big and diversified group as Woolworth spread to every sector of shopkeeping. Rapid growth of its highly profitable B&Q chain of amateur building and decorating materials helped to develop new retail warehouse sites on railway embankments and industrial estates away from conventional shopping streets.

The closure of more than 300 high street branches released many prime sites, including the flagship store in London's Oxford Street, to new entrepreneurs.

In April, 1984, the shockwaves to hardware stores spread to electrical stockists with Woolworth's purchase of the Comet discount electrical goods chain. With hindsight, it comes as no surprise that Dixons, which had moved a long way from its origins in photographic equip-

ment into high-profile consumer electronics, such as pocket calculators and Walkman stereos, should launch a bid for the slower moving Curry seven months later.

But the Woolworth sale also had a psychological effect in easing traditionally conservative purse strings. When Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, launched the ambitious bid for Woolworth, which nearly succeeded last spring, he claimed he had been thinking about such a move

Proprietors prowl rivals' shops on window-shopping expeditions

since the Paternoster deal four years earlier.

The Burton group is also understood to have looked at Woolworth before embarking on the take-over road which eventually, in August, 1985, took it to the head of the department stores league table with Debenhams.

Once financial wheels begin to turn they can gather considerable momentum in a world where the proprietors' favourite hobby tends to be that of prowling around rival premises on window-shopping expeditions.

A good example of acceleration is that of Sir Terence, whose merger last October of Habitat-Mothercare with British Home Stores through the newly-created Storehouse group, demonstrated a tenfold increase in financial influence in less than four years.

A common underlying factor has been the abrupt change

in economic conditions and the sharp fall in inflation rates. In early 1982, when Habitat bought Mothercare, the Retail Price Index was rising at the rate of 12 per cent.

A year later it had dropped to 5 per cent. By mid-1986, which had already seen the Dixons/Woolworth battle and more than a dozen smaller tussles, inflation stood at under 3 per cent and has since fallen even further.

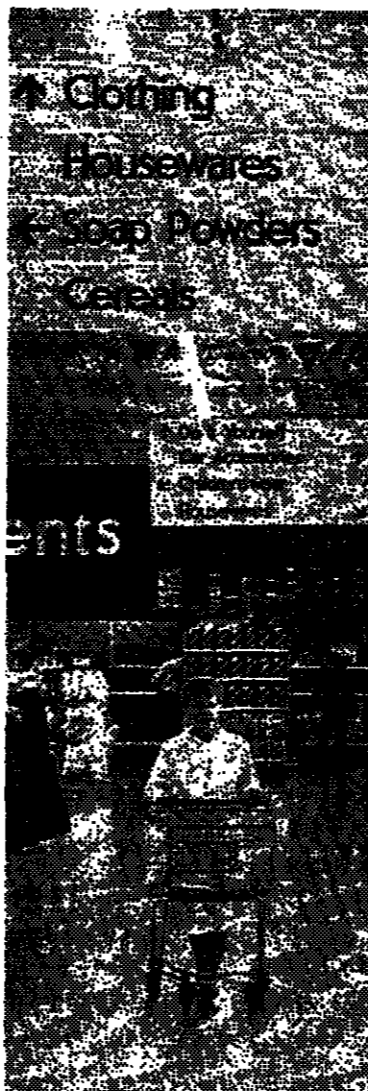
The high-volume, low-profit margin of the "pile it high and sell it cheap" trading philosophy, pioneered by the early supermarkets, had to be re-examined.

Throughout this period wages continued to rise at more than double the inflation rate. Most shoppers were much wealthier than they had been during the price-cutting wars of the 1970s, although the constant shadow of redundancy meant they wanted value for money.

Many traditional retail institutions were too unwieldy to respond to the change in their customers' expectations, like the network of Co-operative Societies which dominated all sectors of retailing in the 1960s. Despite strenuous efforts to modernize, the Co-op hardly rates a mention.

The new economic climate gave entrepreneurs an unprecedented opportunity both to enter the retail arena and to expand rapidly. The two key elements which favoured the new entrants were the availability of sites and a more sympathetic attitude among bankers and financial institutions.

Ten years after opening a single herbal cosmetics shop in Brighton, with a £4,000



One-stop shopping: Customers at the Asda superstore on London's Isle of Dogs can buy anything from minced meat to motor cars

bank loan, Anita Roddick's Body Shop business has more than 200 outlets and is worth an estimated £40 million. After opening two successful shops, Mrs Roddick turned to franchising as a mechanism for growth because, she says, "even then we had no money to expand".

There are many more examples of comparatively young entrepreneurs (Mrs Roddick is 43) who are new entrants to the high street and are running companies which have stayed small.

A high proportion will not survive, but while they are in existence they change the dynamics of the local trading environment, if only by adding more variety.

Retailing is a dynamic activity and big changes are also under way within the store groups which have not changed owners. At Boots, for instance, experiments have been in progress for some time to create specialist "shops within shops" in the larger outlets of the 1,000-strong chain and to focus the smaller stores on a particular theme, such as health care, beauty or baby wear. This specialization is designed to make the best use of the location and size of the individual store.

The strategy at W. H. Smith is also geared to specialist retailing. Some years ago it identified four major product groups: books, magazines, stationery and recorded

music. It has since bought Classic Bookshops in 1985 and the Our Price chain of music cassette stores. W. H. Smith plans to open 40 more Our Price outlets within the next year to add to the Music Market name, another specialist record store group.

The youthful style of the Our Price boutiques, where male staff tend to wear jeans and earrings, will not be merged with the open-plan, middle-of-the-road style music sections within the W. H. Smith own-name stores.

At Woolworth, the success in thwarting the Dixons's bid does not mean the management believe they are immune

to change. It has, instead, given new confidence to radical restructuring plans which concentrate on six key merchandise areas: confectionery, children's wear and toys, horticultural and DIY products, records, cassettes and videos, table and kitchenware and personal-care products.

Woolworth also intends to develop satellite specialist stores on smaller high street sites. This is a policy which Marks & Spencer has applied in outlets which are too small to carry its vast range of products. To implement the new policy, Woolworth is investing about £1.5 million on management training.

All the big multiples have procedures for training shop

assistants, but training at management level on such a large scale is rare if not unprecedented.

A welcome result of the multiples' more flexible attitude is that many smaller or outdated branches which would have been closed a decade ago (the Co-op shut 400 shops in a single year in the mid-1970s) will continue to "anchor" neighbouring independent traders by drawing in customers from a wide catchment area.

Most of the incoming proprietors in the recent wave of mergers are keenly aware that the cultivation of an attractive, leisurely atmosphere makes good business sense.

WE'VE CHANGED.

From today British Home Stores becomes **BHS** New layout. New merchandise. New look.

The bright way to entice bigger sales

Customers are no longer tooing a single fashion line. The Benetton chain was one of the first of a new generation of companies to capitalize on women's new-found independence in the choice of colour and hemlines. But Benetton, as its competitors never fail to point out, is not only a retailer but a manufacturer.

Founded in 1965 in the Italian town of Treviso, near Venice, Benetton has grown into a company with net sales of more than 665 billion lire (about £666 million) and has more than 3,200 shops in 57 countries. It also has eight

mark of the Benetton operation. The story is that the company started when Luciano Benetton (now managing director), the eldest of three brothers and a sister, was forced to abandon his studies to work as an assistant in a men's clothes store to help his widowed mother.

His sister, Giuliana, sewed sweaters for a textile manufacturer, but also designed her own garments on a home knitting machine using bright coloured wool.

Gradually, the family developed an original technique which enabled garments to be dyed after they were made. It has since invested heavily in electronic production and design equipment to meet changing consumer demands almost at the flick of a switch.

Benetton has also made profitable use of the small high street stores which were being discarded in large numbers by less flexible tailoring companies throughout Europe. This, together with the application of the franchise principle, enabled the chain to expand like wildfire once it started to move outside its Italian base in the late 1970s. Since 1977, exports have increased from 2 per cent of turnover to 60 per cent.

The Benetton merchandise is packed flat on shelves and relies on its distinctive colours

to attract attention. When George Davies joined the then fading J Hepworth menswear company and started converting its newly-acquired Kendalls shops into what has now become the Next chain in 1981-82, he went several stages further in co-ordinating skirts with jumpers and displaying them to best advantage.

Mr Davies' tactics struck an instant rapport with women in the 25-40 age bracket who disliked the avant-garde punk look being developed for their younger sisters and who could afford to

pay more and wanted better quality garments than those offered in C & A, British Home Stores, Littlewoods and other chain stores.

Since then, Next not only expanded into a chain of more than 200 womenswear shops, but has created a unisex Next for Men chain, and last year moved into furnishings with Next Interiors.



New styles at the flick of a switch to meet change in consumer demand

factories (five in Italy, the rest in Spain, France and Scotland) which produced more than 40 million brightly-coloured woollen garments in 1984.

A new cotton manufacturing plant in North Carolina is due to start production later this year.

Bright colours are a hall-



Tactics struck an instant rapport with women in the 25-40 age bracket

pay more and wanted better quality garments than those offered in C & A, British Home Stores, Littlewoods and other chain stores.

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Yesterday was the busiest day of the year for BHS (formerly British Home Stores) as it switched to its new logo and new image, adding colourful new fashion and dispensing with food retailing. After three years' major rebuilding and refurbishment following the creation of Storehouse in January, the inspired, new-look exercise in selling should send a shudder of well-justified apprehension through its competitors in Britain's high streets

Problems and progress at the shopping centres

It is more difficult for purpose-built shopping centres to adjust to new conditions than it is for traditional high streets, where shopping is only one aspect of a shifting mixture of social and commercial activities.

This is one reason for the To Let signs still adorning premises in the space of new shopping centres designed for people living within easy travelling distance - in retailing jargon, the "catchment area".

Research by Hillier Parker, property surveyors, shows a remarkable rise in out-of-town shopping schemes during the past year. Proposals announced between March and June alone involve 12 million sq ft of shopping space. This compares with the 4 million sq ft opened since 1977.

The problem with many of the first generation centres is not only that they have become sadly out of date but, like the early post-war tower blocks, they were not well built in the first place.

The Arndale Centres in Wandsworth, London, and Doncaster are two examples of older centres which have already been comprehensively upgraded. Built in the late 1950s with 500,000 sq ft and more than 100 retail units, the Wandsworth centre was one of the first of its type.

The centre's fortunes spiralled downwards steadily until the owners, Town and City Properties, called in the McColl architecture and design company to create an environment which would attract and retain retail tenants. Improvements included bigger signposts, brighter lights and a fountain, pool, trees and seats. A campaign was launched to ensure that the improved appearance was maintained.

The result is that graffiti and vandalism levels have dropped and the number of shoppers has increased. More national-name retailers are taking leases and some of the existing tenants have been encouraged to upgrade their own presentation.

Other centre owners took note and McColl says they are now looking at 15 further refurbishments of this nature. Upgrading the Doncaster

centre involved comprehensive reconstruction as well as refurbishment and resulted in a £4.5 million bill for the owners, the Prudential.

Architects Leslie Jones & Partners were, however, able to turn the difficulties to design advantage by introducing natural lighting. They built in a central, glazed atrium to provide a focal point which, they claim, is the largest, aluminium-arched single span in Europe.

The image factor is all important for success in retailing, say the designers. But changing the decor alone in a 20-year-old centre can cost more than the original price of the whole development.

Converting historic but redundant buildings into retail centres can be even more

— more than double that at Brent Cross — about three miles outside the centres of Newcastle and Gateshead.

But there were still many misgivings about the concept of regional shopping centres and it was not until 1983, when Mr Hall held an exhibition publicizing his idea for an American-style leisure and shopping park, that he could persuade any of the big high street names to take space on the old power station tip.

Dynamic newcomers such as MFI and Harris Queensway have shown how bulky goods can be marketed effectively from cheap premises. From a handful of mainly electrical discount warehouses in the late 1970s, trade estimates are of a tenfold increase during the past few years and for continuing expansion.

The variety of goods sold in warehouse centres is expanding rapidly. From tools and decorating products, the Woolworth-owned B&Q chain, for example, has developed home care furnishing stores and centres for servicing cars, and is expanding rapidly from 163 outlets in 1985 towards a target of 400.

Texas Homecare which had 117 stores in 1984 is looking to a target of 250. An American chain, Toys "R" US, is also looking at warehouse sites.

Halfords, the motor parts and accessories chain owned by Ward White, has moved into superstores which average 10,000 sq ft and offer more than 6,000 products. By last Easter the company had 18 such stores and, according to Ian Staples, the managing director, plans are well advanced for a national chain of at least 100 by 1988-89.

A more recent development is the creation of repair and servicing workshops next to the stores. The first of these, which offer motorists a "Limited Menu" service (the automotive equivalent of fast food), opened at Perry Barr in Birmingham in July, 1985.

It offered motorists 6,000 and 12,000 mile services at fixed prices, fast oil changes, tyre fitting and a range of free services including computerized diagnostic testing and pre-MOT tests, all in a clean bright, well-lit building at competitive prices.

costly. Covent Garden, the old wholesale fruit and vegetables market, began the trend in the mid-1970s. The St Quintin property consultancy recently identified 20 such speciality shopping schemes, eight under construction and seven with planning permission.

Albert Dock, in Liverpool comprises the largest group of Grade I listed buildings in the UK. It has a strong recreational element and, like Covent Garden, is expected to become an important tourist attraction. Others, such as the Waverley Market in Edinburgh and the Cavern Walks in Liverpool, are intended to give trading variety to a nearby prime shopping street.

Most ambitious of the out-of-town shopping centres are the up-market covered malls. Brent Cross, which opened in north-west London in March, 1976, was a trend-setter, both in terms of scale and location. The 790,000 sq ft of gross selling space and associated parking proved an instant success with shoppers and traders and inspired John Hall, the chairman of Cameron Hall Developments and a self-styled entrepreneur, to buy an even bigger 11-acre site

The improvement schemes have cut vandalism and pulled in shoppers

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Conran's image of success

The importance of display was realized long ago by Sir Terence Conran, who believes that the design and atmosphere of the stores are as important as the goods they stock.

He first applied the principle to Habitat furniture and household goods, but more than a decade later proved it again with Richards, a fashion chain which he acquired along the way to the BHS merger.

"We put some of the new merchandise into Richard Shops that hadn't been modernized and the sales figures were poor. The same clothes did immensely better in the shops that we had refitted," he said. Sir Terence is pas-



Sir Terence: proved a point sonately involved with design which covers all aspects of shopkeeping.

"It cannot be half-hearted," he says. "A few life-size photos and the signs 'co-ordinates'

hanging up in stores will not change the environment."

Another elemental principle of retailing which Sir Terence endorses is the importance of rapid and detailed feedback on sales figures, which was applied with considerable success by the Burton group at Top Shop a decade or so ago.

It remains to be seen how effectively he can apply the twin ingredients of comprehensive design and computerized sales and stock information to BHS, whose new corporate image is being unveiled this month and which carries a wider spectrum of merchandise than any of the boutique-type specialists.

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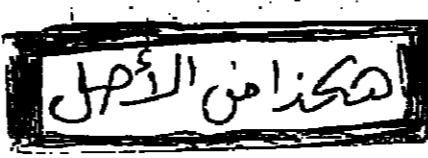
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RETAILING/3



High street quality: Marks & Spencer leads the way in good food

The disappearing village shop

Food stores have not remained unscathed from the recent spate of mergers and takeovers. The past 18 months have seen the acquisition by the Asda superstore group of MFL.

It has also seen several smaller purchases, taking Alec Monk's Dee Corporation from a zero rating on the league table to the third largest supermarket chain after Tesco and Sainsbury, outdoing groups of stores like Gateway and Woolworth's Woolco outlets.

The big supermarkets' share of food sales is getting bigger and that of the independents is contracting. With 77 per cent of retail food sales now concentrated in just 10 store groups, the market is becoming steadily more concentrated.

The outlook for the village shop's survival is grim, a view confirmed by two reports published during the summer. "No more than three in every 10 rural stores are totally sound and 10 per cent are in dire circumstances from which there is no long-term escape", concluded the Development Commission, in one of the reports.

It blamed changing shopping habits and consumers' greater mobility, together with economy drives by manufacturers, forcing shopkeepers to buy more from middlemen than obtaining deliveries direct.

The second report, *The Village Shop - a Radical Plan for its Long-Term Survival*, is, as its title would suggest, somewhat more constructive. It shows that by becoming agents of local authorities and

public services, small village shopkeepers could augment their retail profits with extra income in the same way as postmasters by distributing prescriptions, delivering library books, acting as Citizens' Advice Bureaux, or forming networks of lifeline call systems for the aged.

To help small village shops the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA) has co-ordinated a money-off advertising promotion, supported by six big grocery manufacturers.

The outlook for small grocery stores in urban areas is rather better with the entry by big names into the "convenience" store concept. The idea behind chains like Guinness's "7-Eleven" is to cater for emergency purchases with long opening hours and to go for high profit margins rather than cut prices.

The stores are intended to stock a big range of products from frozen foods to newspapers, but also to tempt the shopper with an indulgence buy like hot bread or exotic fruit.

The race continues for big sites. Last year saw the opening of 29 superstores (27,000 sq ft) and one hypermarket (54,000 sq ft), the largest number in any year since 1981 and there are many more in the planning pipeline.

London now has two stores which qualify for the hypermarket definition of at least 54,000 sq ft of trading floor space on a single level. The Tesco branch which opened at Neasden last year, with a trading floor space of 60,000 sq ft, has just pipped

Asda, which owns the other London hypermarket. It opened on the Isle of Dogs in London in 1983 and has 56,000 sq ft.

According to the Unit for Retail Planning Information's listings, the largest stores trading in Britain are the Carrefour at Bristol (90,000 sq ft), SavaCentre at Calcot, Reading (81,000 sq ft) and the Tesco at Weston Favell, Northampton (105,000 sq ft).

But the big store groups have no intention of stopping there. David Gransby, group development director of Asda-MFL said superstore retailing has just begun in the UK and is nowhere near saturation point.

Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, sees the future of retailing lying with specialists. He foresees diversification into services such as banking, but in conjunction with existing experts.

The superstores are working hard to improve the quality and presentation of the fresh food they offer. Space formerly used for warehousing is being given over to butchers, bakers and greengrocers.

But in terms of quality and imagination, the superstores have a long way to go to catch up with Marks & Spencer, which became, rather surprisingly, the pioneer of good food and tasty ready-prepared meals when it was still basically a fashion clothing chain.

It remains to be seen whether Marks & Spencer's link with Tesco in big out-of-town store development influences superstore food standards for the better.

Mail order regroups for twin attack

The mail-order catalogue firms, who normally keep aloof from the high street stores, have formed new partnerships and are preparing to change their ways.

In July, Grattan was acquired by Next, the rising star of fashion retailing. The deal followed the "amicable merger" between Freemans and Warehouse, the high fashion stores company formed by Jeff Banks, the designer, a few months earlier.

The first outcome of the Freemans/Warehouse link was Bymail, a "specialist" featuring a collection of designer fashions. More, a customer could now phone for a catalogue, order clothes by phone and charge them to her credit card.

Both developments were radically different from traditional mail-order catalogue business methods, based on conservative products and a network of agents serving customers without bank accounts or credit facilities.

The recessionary cutbacks in their northern industrial heartland have been hitting the mail-order companies hard since the early 1980s. Their collective performance has been less buoyant than that of the rest of the retail sector after a boom period in the 1970s when manual workers' wages were straddling ahead.

The instant success of Bymail accelerated action by the other mail-order houses. Great Universal Stores, which claims more than 40 per cent of this sector of the trade, has now devised a collection of clothes aimed at a specialist youth market and a direct-sell catalogue. The Next/Grattan team is understood to be considering an even more extended range for its first joint catalogue next August.

Grattan, which has suffered a drop in market share since 1980 but still has 500,000 agents on its books, has already explored the specialist market in clothing with catalogues such as Look Again (for the 18-25 bracket) and Streets of London (25-45). Its partnership with Next is also seen as giving an injection of style in household goods.

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 - How do you establish the right commercial attractiveness for a new shopping centre development?
 - Are your operating costs and productivities right for your business?
 - Do your systems, manual or electronic, ensure that your best sellers are always out in front of customers?
 - How can you organise distribution replenishment and inventory control to achieve more attractive returns on stock investment?
 - What are your corporate objectives for future growth and profitability? How do you get there?

When you'd like specific answers to these questions or others on profit improvement directions in retailing, please contact:



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EDUCATIONAL COURSES REVIEW

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HORIZONS

A survey of young pros

School leavers now have an opening into a profession. Ann Hill looks at the winning route

The surveying profession — which usually expects entrants to have degrees — is now open to school leavers through the Chartered Surveyors' Youth Training Scheme. The scheme, just entering its third year, is a winner. Of 33 trainees who began last summer, at least 25 have found jobs and one 18-year-old with just two O-levels is to study for an external degree in Estate Management.

But on a chilly week in May, 17-year-old Charlotte Moore might have wondered what she had let herself in for — surveying a car park in Aberystwyth. She was one of 18 teenagers (three of them female) spending five days, "frustrating because of the weather and cars getting in the way", measuring with theodolite the poles and crannies of the windy site down to the position of huts, pipes, taps and angles. The results had to be translated into a measured drawing.

A few weeks later Charlotte passed the first year of her BTEC exams with merits and a distinction on the road to becoming an estate agent.

In early August she was awarded £25 as a token for her achievements by Richard Luff, Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors. The central London estate agents, Batty Stevens Good, who took her on as a YTS trainee, offered her a permanent job. She intends to continue training towards professional qualifications — a stint which could take a decade with day release.

Successful junior negotiator who gets a kick from selling

Still, it only took a year to make the transformation from schoolgirl at Rochester Girls Grammar School, Kent (where Charlotte's capabilities were underestimated), to successful junior negotiator who gets a kick out of selling properties (and an extra 2 per cent commission on top of a wage of £4,500).

In the past she could not have made the grade. The YTS, began in 1984, conceived by Alan Gillett, past Master of the Worshipful Company, it followed a plea from the Lord Mayor then for practical solutions to youth unemployment.

Chartered Surveyors are one of the modern closed professional livery companies in the City, so this altruistic move represents a major breakthrough, though historically it continues the tradition of City sponsorship in old-style apprenticeships. The result is that the professional body became YTS managing agents, opening doors to 16-year-olds with substantial backing from the Manpower Services Commission.

After two one-year courses, the scheme — in line with YTS nationally — is about to become two year's long and the MSC bill for 1986-88 will be up to £320,000. Sixty trainees are expected to be matched with employers this summer and a similar number next year.

Unfortunately, intake is limited to Greater London because trainees attend

employers, Daniel B Connal & Partners of Southend. Now on a modest salary of £50 a week (an improvement on the YTS £27.30 allowance), he attends Southend Technical College on day release.

"I'm gaining more practical experience than I would have by taking A-levels," said Daniel, who outlined his previous day's work in terms of "shuffling" quantities needed in building, to get them in the right order for tendering. "I go to sites, it's an indoors and outdoors job."

He aims to be a partner one day, after a degree and the necessary test of professional competence to become a chartered surveyor and a member of their Royal Institution.

Charlotte's interests are on the estate agency side. "I saw Pop into Property. It seemed to cater for everything I want to do — meeting people, seeing how they do — getting out with clients." She was "perplexed for the first three weeks — I couldn't answer the 'phone'. Now her worst moments are "when a deal falls through at the last minute".

She is learning the hard sell — "stressing the balcony if that's what the buyer wants". At her tender age, Charlotte is being taught how to avoid meeting strange men in flats: "If I'm worried I ask a colleague to come with me, or say that the key won't work, or ask the porter to help." The disappearance of Susannah Lamplugh in Fulham has shocked them all.

Backing makes the scheme a pioneer among professionals

With the first year under her smart belt, Charlotte is intent on pursuing a career, possibly taking the course prescribed by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers. But first she needs to move nearer the office. "I live with my parents in Rochester; that means leaving home at 6.20am and not getting back until 7.30pm."

Neil Richardson, 18, travels to building surveys off Oxford Street from Orpington. "Before hearing about the scheme I had planned to join the police, which is why my O-levels include government and politics. I didn't know what a building surveyor did until I went to the careers office, but I'd helped my father build our garage."

"I want to be able to do structural surveys, schedules of dilapidation, and handle a complete renovation job," he said. Neil is now learning the skills of draughtsmanship and structural survey.

His firm, Swaby Cowan, is taking on three additional trainees, one on the building surveying side, the others on commercial and residential agency work. They have been sold on Neil's abilities and the backing which is making this YTS a pioneer among professionals.

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Scholarships Continued from page 25

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SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS for entry in September 1987
Two Academic and two Music Scholarships will be awarded to boys and girls of exceptional merit seeking admission to the Sixth Form in September 1987. The awards will be worth up to 50% of current boarding fees.
The Scholarships will be held at Bryanston on 18th, 19th and 20th November 1986. Closing date for applications: 23rd November 1986. For further details and applications forms please contact:
The Registrar, Bryanston School, Blandford, DT11 0PX or telephone 0258 52411

KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIPS 1987
Up to twelve Scholarships are offered for postgraduate study in the academic year 1987-88 at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. These Scholarships are available to United Kingdom candidates who will have graduated from a British University or Polytechnic by the time of taking up an award in 1987 or who graduated not earlier than July 1985. Value of Scholarships \$9,000 plus tuition and cost of transatlantic travel. Details of eligibility and application procedure from Registrar of University, College or Polytechnic (or Kennedy Memorial Trust, 16 Great College Street, London SW1P 3RX).
Closing date for applications at Universities, Colleges, Polytechnics, 24th October 1986.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FIRM SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Applications are invited for the position of Senior Research Fellow to work for a period of up to three years as Co-ordinator of the forthcoming Economic and Social Research Council programme on New Technologies and the Firm. The ESRC Industry and Employment Committee is commissioning a substantial multi-disciplinary programme focusing initially on the development, impact and evaluation of new technologies at the level of the firm.
The appointment may be either on a full-time or half-time basis and will involve co-ordinating the overall programme; advising on the assessment of research bids and working on the development of subsequent proposals; monitoring research in progress; and disseminating research findings. The Fellow will have a major part to play ensuring the involvement of industry in the individual research projects. The balance of the Fellow's time (if full time) would be devoted to substantive research, including contributing to the development of framework for the study of new technology. Research assistance may be provided if justifiable.
Applicants should be at Senior Lecturer or Professor level or other equivalent status with a relevant research background and, preferably, significant industrial experience. Salary and conditions are negotiable. The position is available from 1 November 1986.
Further details are available from Sally Parkington, ext 232 and Joan d'Alton, ext 234. Economic and Social Research Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6BA. Tel 01-637 1499.
The closing date for applications is Friday 10 October 1986.

E/S/R/C
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RUGBY UNION

Sale remain anonymous as Nottingham go in search of their identity

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Nottingham 16 Sale 6

Nottingham were sufficiently far north to escape Saturday's driving rain...

For long periods, however, both clubs looked in search of the best game to suit their diverse talents...

In their defence they are putting together a new half-back combination...

Nottingham have a new fullback, too, in Byrom, who has joined them from Worsop...

Twice in the first half Hartley slashed through Sale's midfield but blotted his copybook the second time...

Twice in the first half Hartley slashed through Sale's midfield but blotted his copybook the second time...

Sale were somewhat anonymous. Kenrick kept going well but tended to become isolated...

Nottingham led 9-3 at half-time, a certain frustration creeping into their play...

Nottingham led 9-3 at half-time, a certain frustration creeping into their play...

Many questions go unanswered

By Nicholas Keith

Bath 6 Leicester 3

Unseasonal weather prevented this John Smith merit table match from realizing anything like its potential...

How many key individual performances were not answered? Underwood v Trick on the wing...

The outstanding player on either side was Robinson, Bath's flanker and captain of the Loughborough side...

Orrell pack power

By Gordon Allan

London Scottish 9 Orrell 10

Orrell's game plan succeeded at Richmond on Saturday. Playing into the wind and rain in the first half they devised themselves...

They beat London Scottish in this John Smith's Merit Table A match by a try and two penalty goals...

On a dry day there could have been a different result - how different depends on where your allegiance lies...

Orrell's territorial advantage when they had the weather to help them was significantly greater than when the Scots had it...

Recovery by Ulster squandered

By Ian McLachlan

Bath 6 Leicester 3

Resolute Scottish defence and over-elaboration on their opponents' line cost Ulster dearly as they fell by 21 points to 20 to the hosts at Sevensall at Riverside Park, Jedburgh...

The South started well with two incisive runs by Dods causing the visitors a problem...

After the break, however, the Ulster forwards stepped up a gear and put the opposition under fierce pressure in every phase of the game...

It must be said that while Campbell is unfortunate to lose his place it is equally mysterious that Derek White, the back row man, cannot find a place in this team...

Gosforth join the mighty who are fallen

By Michael Stevenson

Liverpool St Helens continue to thrive, their latest victory coming against Gosforth...

Liverpool St Helens continue to thrive, their latest victory coming against Gosforth...

Things have changed drastically since the days when Gosforth possessed the most powerful club pack in England...

All the points came in the first half, through a try by the bustling Mark Hale, a drop goal by Ian Jeffrey...

Left-arm spinner John Childs and middle order batsman Alan Lilly were both awarded their county caps by champions Essex...



Gonzalez in overdrive in New York; next stop, Spain.

Speedy Gonzalez

Jose Luis Gonzalez was the fifth American mile in New York on Saturday, his 3 minutes 53.2 seconds being 3 fast for John Walker (3:54.13) and José Abascal (3:54.49)...

seconds from Peter Elliott (4:01.51), also of Britain, with Gonzalez's fading to eighth.

Lucases lead way

By John Watson

The final of the Fiat Challenge Trophy for the open section of the Guards Club's autumn tournament was decided at Windsor Great Park yesterday...

The second set-6, which was for the Fiat Challenge trophy, was won by John Yeoman's team, Southfield...

The presence of Brent Walker's Lucas brothers, developed nearly through the game of fluency...

The second set-6, which was for the Fiat Challenge trophy, was won by John Yeoman's team, Southfield...

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: CATANIA, Italy: International meeting. 100m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:10.10; 200m: C. Lynch (USA) 2:28.10; 400m: J. Hallyday (USA) 5:55.10; 800m: J. Hallyday (USA) 12:00.10; 1000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 17:00.10; 1500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 24:00.10; 2000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 31:00.10; 2500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 38:00.10; 3000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 45:00.10; 3500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 52:00.10; 4000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 59:00.10; 4500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 66:00.10; 5000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 73:00.10; 5500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 80:00.10; 6000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 87:00.10; 6500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 94:00.10; 7000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:01:00.10; 7500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:08:00.10; 8000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:15:00.10; 8500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:22:00.10; 9000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:29:00.10; 9500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:36:00.10; 10000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:43:00.10; 10500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:50:00.10; 11000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 1:57:00.10; 11500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:04:00.10; 12000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:11:00.10; 12500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:18:00.10; 13000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:25:00.10; 13500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:32:00.10; 14000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:39:00.10; 14500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:46:00.10; 15000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 2:53:00.10; 15500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:00:00.10; 16000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:07:00.10; 16500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:14:00.10; 17000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:21:00.10; 17500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:28:00.10; 18000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:35:00.10; 18500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:42:00.10; 19000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:49:00.10; 19500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 3:56:00.10; 20000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:03:00.10; 20500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:10:00.10; 21000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:17:00.10; 21500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:24:00.10; 22000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:31:00.10; 22500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:38:00.10; 23000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:45:00.10; 23500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:52:00.10; 24000m: J. Hallyday (USA) 4:59:00.10; 24500m: J. Hallyday (USA) 5:06:00.10; 25000m: J. 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Jumbo-size cheer for the three lions of Somerset

By Richard Streeton

TAUNTON: Somerset (4pts) beat Derbyshire by three wickets as a light aircraft carrying a streamer "Keep Botham, Richards and Garner" flew over the field during the tea interval yesterday in this John Player League match, which, inevitably, was loaded with emotional tension. The Big Three all had a hand in Somerset's victory, which was followed by the crowd swarming on to the field and shouting support in front of the pavilion for the players in dispute.

A Tannoy announcement confirmed that there would be an extraordinary general meeting in late October and added: "This is a members' club and it is the members who will decide whether they agree or disagree with any committee decision."

Somerset's target was 208 and in true storybook style it was Botham and Richards who put them on the right path to reach it. These two added 64 in nine overs, a stand marked by fierce but controlled stroke-making. Botham hit two sixes over the square-leg fence before he was caught in the same place and departed waving his hat at the crowd and pointing it to the committee balcony.

Richards hit six fours as he made 55 from 59 balls and then played on against Jean-Jacques. Garner hit a six before he was run out and Marks and Dredge finally had to steer Somerset home.

To arrive at the County Ground in mid-morning and find an elephant sitting in a lorry was an early reminder that this was no ordinary end-of-season game between two teams in the middle of the table. The elephant, one Lola,

from Canterbury Zoo, who is four years old and weighs one and a quarter tons, has nothing to do with what might prove to be the Big Three's final appearance together for Somerset.

Lola is involved in Botham's Hannibal-style walk across the Alps in February, 1988 in aid of leukaemia research. She has to be mentioned, though, if only for the surprise her arrival must have given the gatesman. Lola was later driven to Botham's home nearby for publicity filming.

The day's emotion got properly under way when Botham, Richards and Garner arrived within two or three minutes of one another. A 300-strong crowd, waiting in the players' car park, spontaneously clapped and cheered as each man walked to the adjoining pavilion.

About 5,000 spectators meant a slightly smaller Sunday crowd than usual here. There were, however, additional police present, their first duty being to deprive people as they arrived of any banners they carried in support of the sacked players.

Two or three, though, were smuggled in and the best message read "Big Bird Not The Crow" - a reference first to Garner's nickname and then to the New Zealander who is replacing the two West Indians.

During the tea interval many in the crowd gathered in front of the pavilion and cheered the Big Three when they came on to the balcony to watch the aircraft and its streamer. Les Botham, the player's father, also gave interviews criticizing the club's recent action.

Roebuck, the Somerset captain, had an injured thumb. Richards, the vice-captain, chose not to be burdened with the leadership, so Marks led the side and chose to field first. Derbyshire reached a creditable total, thanks to Barnett, Roberts and Hill, but whatever they made it was probably never going to be enough on this particular day.

The Big Three, of course, were cheered in everything they did. Garner bowled with typical economy, though the last ball he delivered was sliced for six by Warner. It was an ironic finish for someone whose steadiness in one-day cricket has been legendary.

Botham at short mid-wicket took a marvellous catch to his right to end Barnett's stay. He bowled loosely but did have Warner missed twice in his last over. Richards, too, was punished but raced around the boundary edge like a teenager.

Essex on their way to yet more prizemoney.

Essex on their way to yet more prizemoney.

Essex on their way to yet more prizemoney.



The Big Three: Garner, Botham and Richards lining up yesterday for perhaps the last time

Norman's effort rewarded with victory in play-off

By Mitchell Platt

Greg Norman continued his astonishing year by walking away with more than £100,000 after beating Ken Brown at the first extra hole of a sudden death play-off for the Panasonic European Open at Sunningdale yesterday.

The Australian has now won \$885,000 in prize winnings alone this year though he was compelled to work hard for this victory as Brown produced an exciting finish to complete a final round of 67 and draw alongside Norman (66) on the 11 under par 269 mark. Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, took 68 for third place on 271 with Severiano Ballesteros (65), Jose-Maria Olazabal (66) and Nick Faldo (68) sharing fourth place two strokes further back.

Norman, who has now moved to the top of the Sony World rankings list, appeared to have given the advantage to Brown at the first extra hole, which measures 494 yards, when he pushed his drive into the rough. But he played a superb second shot into the heart of the green and Brown left his approach just short of the putting surface. Brown chipped up to within 8 feet from where he needed to hole to keep the match alive after Norman had safely two putted. The slender Englishman was composed enough to

back away from his putt and joke "Hasn't it gone quiet?" But he then left his effort short.

Brown and Norman exchanged the lead on no fewer than five occasions during an afternoon of high drama with Langer the most persistent pursuer. Faldo was repeatedly betrayed by a matter of inches on the greens and he could never get in a significant blow.

The rain-delayed third round had been completed in the morning, without any further mishaps, and Brown (68) squeezed into a share of the lead with Howard Clark (67), who later faltered.

Langer persevered through to the end but he was unable to elbow his way back into the front line. Brown regained the lead with a birdie at the sixth but Norman, out in 32 and playing in the match ahead, followed a birdie at the 11th with another at the 14th to edge two shots in front.

Brown now discovered the inspired touch on the greens which so often in the past has enabled him to keep his score intact in such pressurized situations.

At the long 14th he missed the green on the right and the chance of a birdie appeared to have evaporated when he pitched out of the shin-high rough and the ball ran 20 feet past the hole. But he coaxed home the putt and then on the next green holed from 30 feet for a two to draw level.

LEADING SCORES FROM SUNNINGDALE

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated)

269	G Norman (Aus), 67, 67, 69, 66; K Brown, 67, 68, 69, 67.
271	B Langer (WG), 69, 68, 66, 68.
273	J M Olazabal (Sp), 68, 67, 72, 66; S Ballesteros (Sp), 64, 72, 72, 66; N Faldo 62, 72, 71, 69.
274	R Davis (Aus), 71, 67, 69, 67; P Fowler (Aus), 65, 68, 73, 68.
275	M Martin (Sp), 67, 73, 67, 68; B Galacher (Sp), 68, 72, 67, 67; J Bland (SA), 68, 72, 67, 66.
276	E Rodriguez (Sp), 68, 71, 70, 67; B Longmire (U), 70, 69, 68; Mosey (W), 68, 70, 71.
277	S Lyle 68, 72, 71, 68; J Hawkins (SA), 70, 70, 68, 69.
278	V Fernandez (Arg), 69, 70, 71, 68; H Baiocchi (SA), 69, 71, 72, 66; R Rafferty 67, 73, 72, 66; A Stevens 68, 68, 72; H Clark 67, 68, 67, 76.
279	M McNulty (SA), 71, 69, 71, 68; R Drummond 70, 73, 70, 66; G Brand Jr 68, 70, 68, 73.
280	G O'Connor Jr 69, 67, 73, 71; N

Villa manager departs in a civilized way

By Dennis Shaw

Graham Turner was dismissed by Aston Villa yesterday, 24 hours after his side had been mauled 6-0 by Brian Clough's vibrant new Nottingham Forest.

In the wake of the club's fifth defeat in their opening six games of the season 37-year-old Turner's three-year contract was terminated with 12 months still to run.

The parting was immediate, anticipated and totally amicable, with Doug Ellis, chairman, paying tribute to his young ex-manager's integrity and Turner speaking warmly of the club he had just been sadly forced to leave and its "supportive" chairman.

Ellis commented: "The decision has been reached with great reluctance because of his qualities as a man. I have never worked with anyone of such honesty and integrity."

Turner arrived at Villa Park in August 1984 from his post as player-manager of Stretford Town and with limited qualifications for the massive job he was undertaking, that of revitalizing a club which had recently won the first division, the European Cup and the Super Cup under Ron Saunders and Tony Barton.

Soaring pre-season confidence after the acquisition of Martin Keown (Arsenal, £200,000), Gary Thompson (£200,000) and Wednesday (£450,000) and Neale Cooper (Aberdeen, £350,000) never even began to be matched by performances. Spurs' Clive Allen hit them with three goals at Villa Park on opening day of the season and they never recovered.

Cooper, the Scottish under-21 defender, has been out injured since pre-season but that alone has not explained the horrendous defensive failures.

It did not help Turner's cause, either, that Steve Hodge, their World Cup star, chose to ask for a move on the eve of the Forest game. Attention will now be focused on whether a new manager can persuade him to stay.

Ron Wylie, Turner's coach, is expected to figure in a new managerial set-up.

The manner of Forest's devastating destruction of Villa, even allowing for the glaring inadequacies of Graham Turner's beleaguered men, provided the clearest evidence yet that Brian Clough could soon be back in business in a big way.

RUDDY LEAGUE

281	P Baker 71, 69, 71, 70; S Barnett 69, 71, 70, 71; T Armour (US), 70, 71, 70; S Turner 71, 69, 71, 69; D Smith 69, 73, 71, 68; A Sowa (Arg), 69, 69, 70, 73; G J Brand 69, 67, 70, 75; R-Stephan (US), 71, 71, 72, 66; M Roe 69, 73, 71, 68.
282	J Haggarty 69, 73, 67, 73; G Turner (NZ), 73, 69, 70, 70; J Rivera (US), 67, 70, 71, 68.
283	M Poxon 68, 75, 70, 70; B Lane 70, 72, 70, 71; N Hansen 73, 69, 71, 70; M Persson (Swe), 68, 72, 73, 70.

St Helens run up 112 points

By Keith Macklin

The huge and depressing gap between first and second division was alarmingly demonstrated at Knowsley Road yesterday when St Helens went on a 112-point spree against Carlisle in the first round of the Lancashire Cup.

It was a record for the competition, a record for the St Helens club, and the young centre Paul Loughlin achieved a club record individual points-tally of 40 with two tries and 16 goals.

Mercifully for Carlisle, on a day when St Helens showed no mercy to a new and struggling club, it is not an all-time record. Huddersfield hold this distinction, having beaten a junior club, Swinton Park, by 119-2 in a Challenge Cup game in 1914.

Another first division humiliation of a second division side came at Central Park, where Wigan beat Rochdale Hornets 52-0, while Widnes went across the River Mersey to thrash their neighbours Runcorn 48-10, Runcorn getting the consolation of a crowd four times its normal size.

GRUNHALL LAGER LANCASHIRE CUP: First round: Blackpool Borough 6, Garry 30; Oldham 26, Leigh 22; Runcorn Highfield 10, Widnes 48; St Helens 112, Carlisle 0; Warrington 28, Salford 20; Wigan 48, Rochdale Hornets 0; Whitehaven 72, Fulham 6; Warrington 25, Swinton 16.

JOHN SMITH'S YORKSHIRE CUP: First round: Batley 12, Wakefield Trinity 14; Hull Kingston Rovers 52, Huddersfield 30; Sheffield Eagles 9, Dewsbury 10; Castleford 16, Halifax 10; Featherstone 40, York 13; Hull 29, Bramley 22; Hunslet 12, Bradford 40.

Essex secure second place

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD: Essex (4 pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets.

Essex, John Player Special League champions of the last two years, secured second place and £9,500 in prizemoney for this season through comfortably beating Glamorgan yesterday.

with the ball as with the bat in this competition. He took three more wickets yesterday and did much as he pleased with the bat when he got his eye in.

His side's fielding was again splendid. Stephenson held an excellent diving catch on the edge of the covered pitch to sent back Morris. Glamorgan's top scorer, East brought off two diving catches to account for Holmes and Ontong and Fletcher ran to reach Maynard's lofted drive with the enthusiasm of one starting out in the game. He is enjoying it all more than ever.

Gooch and Hardie scored the majority of their 98 runs together in gloomy light. Gooch took most of Thomas's opening spell, which was lively enough on a sluggish pitch. A hook for four set him going and five more helped

Essex on their way to yet more prizemoney.

Inter-city league proposed

By Rex Bellamy

John Feaver, tournament director of the Silk Cut inter-club championship, suggested during yesterday's final at Queen's Club that a sponsored inter-city league might raise Britain's modest competitive standards.

The former Davis Cup player proposed a nucleus of eight cities playing one-day matches every Sunday, the teams including two local players and one or two guest celebrities with experience on the international circuit.

Feaver believes that such a competition, already successful in West Germany and elsewhere, could revitalize British tennis in much the same way as the one-day game has popularized cricket. Alan Mills, whose refereeing duties include Wimbledon and the Silk Cut event, described the scheme as "an exciting idea".

Shirley Park (Croydon) beat Southport Argyle 2-1 in yesterday's final, which had a dramatic but anti-climatic finish: a foot-fault by the best player on court, Jeff Draper of Southport, on the ninth point of a tie-break in the mixed doubles. Arthur Ankrab, 6ft 7in, and Margaret Godbold, 5ft 5in, (a very odd couple indeed) beat Draper and Myriam Tyson 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 after Southport had won the women's doubles and Shirley Park the men's doubles.

Fein show as fleet cut it fine

From Barry Pickethall

Britain's three-best team of Marionette, Rocket Battleship and Full Pelt clinched the Sardinia Cup ahead of West Germany and Spain. But the outcome remained in doubt until the finish of the final inshore race yesterday.

The star of the team, and the series, was Stephen Fein's one tonner, Full Pelt, skippered by the Olympic bronze medalwinner, Joe Richards, whose crew came into their own during the high-scoring offshore races before going on to win Saturday's Olympic race. They crowned their performance with a third place yesterday to finish top dogs in the series 21 points ahead of West Germany's Rubin.

By comparison, Britain's two larger yachts, Chris Dunning's Marionette and Pocket Battleship, owned by Martin Gibson, played only minor supporting roles in the light variable conditions that prevailed during four of the five races.

But, with the West German, Spanish and Italian boats also faltering badly at times, the British team's combined score gave them an 11.13-point advantage over the West Germans and left Spain trailing a further three points adrift.

Green wins despite water scare

By Jenny MacArthur

A superb dressage test on SR International's 11-year-old Shannagh, Rocket Battleship and Full Pelt clinched the Sardinia Cup ahead of the Croft Original Tebury horse trials. She finished seven points ahead of the runner-up, Carol Rose, who had an impressive cross-country ride on the 10-year-old Mastermind.

Captain Mark Phillips had a day of mixed fortunes. He finished third on Cartier, who like Mastermind is by Master Spiritus, but then had a fall on the seven-year-old Bold Approach at the Normandy Bank. His two horses, together with Jon Evans's The Cordwainer, who finished fourth, are all competing at next month's Chatsworth three-day event.

Shannagh, surprisingly, made heavy weather of the water. Having jumped in over the log into the water on the extreme left-hand side he landed in the deepest part.

Mark Todd, New Zealand's Olympic gold medal winner, gave notice of yet another outstanding young horse when he won his intermediate section on Welton Greylag.

The return of Bugner

After two and a half years out of the ring, Joe Bugner, the former Commonwealth and European heavyweight boxing champion, meets James "Quick" Tillis, of the United States, in Sydney, where he has made his home since quitting England, tonight. At 36 years, Bugner, the only man to go the distance with Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, is seven years the senior of the impressive Tillis, who has been in the ring against five world champions.

Aoki thwarted

Marsh: Won the play-off

The contest has become a social event. Sydney's champagne-buffet set is expected to turn out in force alongside the normal beer-drinking ring fans. The Hungarian-born Bugner has said that tonight's match, as well as putting him in line for a world title shot, is also to prove to the British public that he is not washed up.

Soling victor

There was a double American success at La Trinité-sur-Mer on Saturday as John Kosteki, from Los Angeles, won both the last race and the overall title in the world soling championships. David Curtis, of the United States, was second overall and the European champion, Jochen Schürmann, of East Germany, third. But for Schürmann's disqualification last Friday for a port/starboard incident he would have won the title.

Canoe course

The most advanced artificial canoe slalom course in the world has been opened by the world's best canoeists at the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. The £2.2 million facility, funded by the Sports Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the British Canoe Union, is the first purpose-built international standard course in Britain. Its 700-metre length uses the River Trent to provide a variety of routes and controlled water conditions for all slalomists.

Climber Clay

John Clay marked his return from the world cycling championships in Colorado Springs by scoring the best win of his domestic career in the 87-mile Tour of the Peaks road race classic at Burton yesterday. He dropped Paul Curran (Manchester Wheelers), the Commonwealth champion, on the punishing climb of Wimmans Pass with 12 miles left and crossed the line alone.

Higgins falls

Alex Higgins was among the losers in the BCE snooker international in Derby. Higgins, world champion in 1972 and 1982, was beaten 5-4 by Peter Francisco, of South Africa, who joins his uncle, Silvio, in the televised last 16, which starts in Stoke on September 26. The defeat of Higgins meant that eight of the world's top 16 seeds were no longer in contention.

Manx records

The British rally drivers, Tony Pond and Mark Lovell, beat off a strong international field to register record-breaking performances in the Tudor Webasto Manx Rally, which finished in Douglas on Saturday. It was the fourth win for Pond, an island resident, while Lovell, of Somerset, aged 26, became the youngest driver to win the Shell Oils RAC Open Rally title.

